

9 Tanzania coup plotters convicted

DAR ES SALAAM, Tanzania (AP) — Eight army officers and an airline pilot were convicted on Saturday of plotting to overthrow the government three years ago and were sentenced to life in prison. Six other defendants, including a former presidential adviser, were acquitted of the treason charges and freed. High Court Judge Nassor Mnzavas, in issuing verdicts to end the year-long trial, said he felt obliged to impose stiff sentences on the convicted plotters even though they had no previous criminal records. The defendants had been accused of conspiring between June 1982 and January 1983 to stage a coup d'état against then-President Julius Nyerere. Judge Mnzavas said the motive was to remedy what the plotters considered a hopelessly bad economic situation caused by poor leadership from the socialist government.

University Of Jordan
Center of Strategic Studies
READING ROOM

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تيمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الراي»

Iraq to pump gas to Kuwait in March

BAHRAIN (AP) — The projected Iraq-Kuwait gas pipeline is to be operational next March, two months ahead of schedule, the Iraqi oil minister was quoted as saying on Saturday in Baghdad. The minister, Qassem Iraqi, was referring to the agreement signed last month by which Iraq is to supply Kuwait with 400 million cubic feet a day of liquefied petroleum gas. The pipeline will stretch from the Rumailah field in southern Iraq to the Shuaiba region south of Kuwait. The first phase of the project was scheduled to be finished in May, 1986, according to reports at the time. The Iraqi oil minister said that Baghdad planned more exports of petroleum products after the completion of oil refinery projects, the Gulf News Agency reported from the Iraqi capital. But the minister did not outline the projects to which he was referring.

Volume 11 Number 3056

AMMAN, SUNDAY DECEMBER 29, 1985, RABIA AL THANI 16, 1406

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

King sends good wishes to Nepal

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday sent a cable of good wishes to King Birendra of Nepal on the occasion of Nepal's National Day. In his cable King Hussein wished the Nepalese people further progress and prosperity.

Kuwait backs call for special meeting

CUWAIT (R) — Kuwait would attend a special Arab League meeting to discuss African states' ties with Israel and an Egyptian call for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to find a way to recognise the Jewish state, the Kuwait News Agency said. Syria and Libya have asked for a special meeting to discuss restoration of diplomatic ties between several African states and Israel. The PLO wants a meeting on President Hosni Mubarak's call for it to accept U.N. resolutions demanding Israel's withdrawal from occupied Arab lands but treating the Palestinians as refugees.

Iranian navy seizes Danish ship

TEHRAN (R) — The Iranian navy on Saturday seized the Danish ship Hornland in the Gulf of Oman, the Iranian news agency IRNA said. The captain of the ship said the cargo, which, according to IRNA, included explosives, was bound for Iraq via Kuwait. The Hornland was 200 kilometres from the Strait of Hormuz at the mouth of the Gulf when it was detained, IRNA said.

Cairo appeals court upholds sentence on policeman

CAIRO (R) — An appeals court upheld a life sentence passed on Egyptian police conscript Sulaiman Khater for killing seven Israelis last October. Khater's lawyer said the court rejected his appeal for the case, heard by a military tribunal which passed sentence earlier Saturday, to be retried by a civilian court (See page 2).

Arafat needs 'many days rest'

TUNIS (AP) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat is recovering from a bout of illness but his condition requires "many days of rest," according to his doctor, Ashraf Al Kurdi, quoted on Friday by the Palestinian News Agency, Wafa. Mr. Arafat was reported by a senior PLO official, Khalil Al Wazir, to have complained of severe pain caused by inflammation; Wafa said that on Thursday night, Mr. Arafat received a personal envoy of Romanian leader Nicolai Ceausescu, sent to enquire about his health.

6 sentenced to death in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Six men have been sentenced to death by hanging for beating to death a family of six people, officials said Saturday. The six were sentenced to death by a special military court in the northern city of Peshawar on Friday, the officials said. A seventh man was sentenced to life imprisonment and the wife of one of the condemned men was released, they said.

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Lebanese militia leaders sign 'historic' peace pact

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Leaders of Lebanon's three largest militias on Saturday signed a Syrian-sponsored armistice agreement hailed as a historic turn to end the 10-year-old Lebanese strife which has claimed over 100,000 lives.

Leaders of the three militias put their signatures to the peace document at 3:10 p.m. in a ceremony held under the auspices of Syria's Vice President Abdul Halim Khaddam.

Walid Jumblatt signed for the Progressive Socialist Party (PSP), Justice Minister Nabih Berri signed for the Shiite Amal movement and Elias Hobeika signed for the "Lebanese Forces".

Earlier announcements by senior militia aides in the Syrian capital and by Beirut radio stations said the accord was signed at 1:30 p.m., when the three leaders held a face-to-face meeting at Mr. Khaddam's office.

But an official announcement in Damascus and by Beirut Radio at mid-afternoon corrected the signing time.

Reporters and photographers were then called in to Mr. Khaddam's office to see the signing.

Reagan ready to guarantee Afghan settlement

LOS ANGELES (R) — President Reagan said on Saturday the United States was ready to guarantee a comprehensive peace settlement in Afghanistan and urged the Soviet Union to set a fixed timetable for withdrawal of its troops.

Mr. Reagan launched his second attack on Moscow in as many days for its 1979 intervention in Afghanistan, saying its troops had created "six years of utter hell" for the Afghan people.

The president also offered to guarantee a comprehensive peace in Afghanistan during his speech to the U.N. General Assembly in October.

In a statement on Friday marking the sixth anniversary of the Soviet intervention, he charged Soviet troops with barbarism, indiscriminate attacks against civilians and savage reprisals.

On Saturday, in his weekly radio address, he restated these allegations, saying Moscow had unleashed the full power of its military in Afghanistan.

Mr. Reagan's attack came only hours before he was to videotape a message to the Soviet people. Mr. Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev have agreed to exchange videotaped new year's greetings that are intended for broadcast in the United States and the Soviet Union on Jan. 1.

Mr. Reagan said in his weekly radio address on Saturday that he had told Mr. Gorbachev during their November summit that the presence of about 120,000 Soviet troops in Afghanistan "represented an obstacle to improvement in U.S.-Soviet relations."

"If the Soviets want progress, they must put forward a timetable for withdrawing their troops from Afghanistan," he said.

"The United States is ready to serve as a guarantor of a comprehensive Afghan settlement so long as it includes complete withdrawal of foreign forces within a fixed timetable, ensures genuine independence, not de facto Soviet control of the Afghan people and government, and allows the thousands of refugees to return," Mr. Reagan said.

White House spokesman Larry Speakes said later the United States was prepared to guarantee a settlement in conjunction with Moscow through such means as dialogue and support funding.

There was no suggestion that Mr. Reagan was prepared to offer any unilateral guarantee involving peace-keeping troops.

Senior aides hugged, kissed and exchanged congratulations. It was the first time Mr. Berri and Mr. Jumblatt had met. Dr. Hobeika face-to-face in a formal meeting.

The three militia leaders were expected to see President Hafez Al Assad later in the day.

Beirut Radio said the signing went ahead, despite a last-minute hitch over the number of deputies to be given seats in a new parliament. It did not give details.

Political observers say the pact formally ends a state of war in Lebanon and includes far-reaching reforms to change the country's sectarian power-sharing system.

Exact terms of the accord have so far remained secret, but it is believed to give Muslims more say in government and limit the powers of the Christian-held presidency.

Terrorism should not disrupt peace efforts, Reagan tells Peres

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — President Reagan has sent a message to Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres saying Middle East peace efforts should not be disrupted by the latest anti-Israeli terror attacks in Europe. Israel Radio reported Saturday.

Mr. Reagan's appeal followed veiled threats that Israel would retaliate for the shooting and grenade assaults Friday on the ticket counters of Israel's airline, El Al, in Rome and Vienna.

The message indicated the U.S. administration feared a repetition of Israel's Oct. 1 air raid on the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) headquarters in Tunis in which more than 60 people were killed. The attack came after Palestinian and pro-Palestinian gunmen killed three Israelis in Cyprus Sept. 25 and was widely condemned in Europe and criticised by the Reagan administration as harmful to the peace process.

Mr. Reagan's message expressed U.S. condolences for the attacks in which 18 people were killed and 121 others wounded. The wounded included four Israelis, two of whom were in critical condition.

"These despicable acts are an additional example of the evil of terrorism," the radio quoted Mr. Reagan's message as saying.

Mr. Reagan called for the "eradication of terrorism," but warned against "allowing it to prevent the continuation of the peace process," the radio said.

In statements Friday night, Israeli leaders hinted at possible retaliation. But U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy was quoted by the radio as warning against attacking the wrong target.

Israel on Saturday rejected a denial of involvement by the PLO and a claim of responsibility by the Abu Nidal guerrilla group for the Rome and Vienna attacks.

"The fact that the PLO has denied (involvement) does not mean very much because they have always denied" (responsibility), said David Kimche, director-general of the foreign ministry.

"The fact that Abu Nidal claims responsibility also does not necessarily mean it was they who did it," Kimche told reporters.

Israel did not yet know who was responsible for the attacks, he said.

A PLO spokesman in Tunis said on Friday that it was not involved in the attacks and was trying to identify the perpetrators.

An anonymous caller to a Spanish radio station in Malaga said that the organisation of Abu Nidal (Sabri Al Banna), who has threatened to kill PLO leader Yasser Arafat, carried out the attacks.

Kimche repeated other Israeli leaders' threats to strike at those responsible for the airport attacks. "I would not define it as retaliation," he said. "We wage war against terrorism. It's not just a question of tit-for-tat."

Peres said on Friday that Israel would "use every means to fight" the guerrillas and his deputy,

sidency. In Beirut, radios played "Happy Birthday" as militia leaders gathered in the Syrian capital.

But on the city's "green line" battlefield, a 19-year-old militia commander struggled. "It's just a truce for maybe one year," said Abu Taha. "It won't last."

The conflict has cost at least 100,000 lives and caused damage worth up to \$20 billion since 1975.

"It's over," Mr. Berri told reporters after the conclusion of the accord, which resulted from three months of tedious negotiations under Mr. Khaddam's sponsorship.

Lebanese radio stations interrupted regular programmes to announce the signing in a fanfare of bell-ringing, flutes, calling the accord a "historic document, the new start for Lebanon."

Some 40 Muslim and Christian politicians attended the signing ceremony at Syria's invitation. Damascus Radio said the signing heralded "Lebanon's salvation."

This is the first peace accord concluded by militia chiefs who control the guns.

Scores of previous agreements concluded by militarily powerless politicians all collapsed in the bloody trail of the civil war.

Militia sources quoted by the AP said the proclaimed armistice will be supervised by Syrian military observers.

The sources also said the agreement stipulates the formation of a new government to write a new constitution.

The new constitution will introduce reforms to give Muslims an equal share in the government, parliament, army and judiciary with the Christians, who have dominated power since Lebanon's 1943 independence from France.

Calm prevailed in most of Lebanon's civil war fronts as the militia leaders gathered in Damascus. Beirut's embattled green line, which slices the capital in mostly Muslim and mainly Christian halves, was quiet for the third straight day.

But reports from South Lebanon said Israeli-backed militia gunmen shelled the villages of Kfar Rumman and Habboush on Saturday, killing a nine-month-old girl and seriously wounding her mother.

The targets of the one-hour barrage are on the fringes of Israel's self-designed "security zone" policed by mainly militiamen of the South Lebanon Army (SLA).

Rome airport attack described as 'revenge' for Oct. 1 Israeli raid

ROME (Agencies) — A note found on a surviving guerrilla said Friday's bloody attack at Rome's Fiumicino airport was carried out in revenge for an Israeli air raid on the PLO headquarters in Tunis in October, Italian police said Saturday.

Four guerrillas stormed the check-in desk of the Israeli airline El Al at the airport Friday morning, sparking a furious gunbattle with police in which 15 people, including three attackers, were fatally wounded and 75 others injured.

The Rome raid coincided with a similar attack by three guerrillas on the El Al counter at Vienna's Schwechat airport. Three people, including one guerrilla, were killed and 47 wounded in that incident.

A hospital doctor in Vienna said Saturday one of the two wounded gunmen was out of danger and could be questioned by Austrian police. Thirty-nine of the victims of the attack were in hospitals in Vienna.

In Rome, the death toll was put at 15 on Saturday after two injured passengers died in hospital during the night.

Riccardo Infelisi, Italy's deputy

police chief, told the Associated Press in an interview that the four gunmen were "without a doubt" Palestinians but their countries of origin are unknown.

"They call themselves the martyrs of Palestine and it appears that it is in reprisal for the bombing in Tunisia, where also several civilians, women and children, were killed," he said.

Mr. Infelisi said the lone surviving gunman, who he said was named Mohammad Sarham, was carrying a note in his pocket in Arabic, which investigators had translated into Italian.

It read: "As you have violated our land, our honour, our people, we in exchange will violate everything, even your children to make you feel the sadness of our children. The tears we have shed will be exchanged for blood. The war has started from this moment. The Martyrs of Palestine."

More than 60 people were killed when Israeli jets bombed the Tunis headquarters of the PLO on Oct. 1.

The note said: "We know the road taken by the Zionist planes which struck the PLO headquarters in Tunis."

This appeared to be a reference

to allegations that the Israeli jets refuelled at a military base in Italy. The claim has been denied both by Italy and Israel.

"For every drop of blood shed, whether for the Tunis raid or for other things rivers of blood will be shed in exchange," the note added.

Italian police said two of the guerrillas in the Rome attack had used false Moroccan passports whose serial numbers linked them with similar documents used by Arab guerrillas who attacked the Cafe de Paris and the British Airways office in the Italian capital in September.

The passports, in the names of Mohammad Bou Darwish and Yasser Bou Hmda, have disappeared but their details were taken down by two Rome boarding houses where the two men stayed.

Police and security sources quoted by Reuters said this strengthened their belief that there was an "operation base" in the Rome area where guerrillas picked up weapons and handed in their false passports before attacks.

(Continued on page 3)

Israeli minister advocates use of force against Syrian missiles

TEL AVIV (AP) — A right-wing Israeli cabinet minister said on Saturday that if diplomatic persuasion did not work Israel should use force to remove Syrian anti-aircraft missiles from Lebanon.

Israeli officials contend the missiles inhibit Israel's ability to gather intelligence on Palestinian bases in Syrian-controlled east Lebanon. Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin said on Friday the reconnaissance flights were vital and would continue.

"We have to allow a chance for efforts through political channels. If these efforts aren't productive then we should use the force we have to cleanse Lebanon of the Syrian missiles," Energy Minister Gideon Patt said in an Israel Radio interview.

Tensions have built up since Israel said its fighters shot down two Syrian MiG-23 interceptors near the border with Lebanon on Nov. 19. Syria responded by moving mobile, low-altitude SA-6 and SA-8 anti-aircraft missiles into Lebanon and placing high-altitude SA-2s on the border inside Syrian territory.

The United States is said to have persuaded the Syrians to remove the mobile SAM batteries from the Bekaa Valley, but Prime Minister Shimon Peres revealed on Dec. 26 that they had been moved back into Lebanon although in different locations.

Patt, a member of Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir's Likud bloc, said Israel may have to destroy the missile sites as it said it did 19 SA-6 batteries during the June 1982 invasion of Lebanon when the Likud was in power.

That action followed Israel's last missile crisis with Syria which began in April 1981. In that crisis, Syria moved SAM batteries into Lebanon after Israeli warplanes came to the aid of its allied militiamen and shot down two troop-carrying helicopters in Lebanon.

"In the last government we had a policy where we wouldn't under any circumstances allow such missiles in Lebanese territory," Patt said, referring to the Likud government of former Prime Minister Menachem Begin.

"We acted against the missiles in Lebanon then. I think that in the end we will have to act in a similar manner given the present situation. The Syrians know very well that we have the power to act and the power to destroy those missiles. It's good that they know," he added.

Cabinet grants grace period to importers of uncleared goods

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet on Saturday decided to grant importers extra time to pay customs duty on goods that have not been cleared for a long period, exceeding the legal time permitted for them. A statement following the regular weekly Cabinet session said that the measure has been taken to enable importers to clear their goods.

Importers now have six more months to clear their goods, including cars, from customs warehouses and can pay the customs fees in instalments, provided that the first instalment is 10 per cent of the total fees. The rest can be paid in monthly instalments ending on Dec. 31, 1986, on condition that the importer supplies bank guarantees for the balance.

The Cabinet also decided to

allow goods brought into the country on temporary basis for re-export purposes and which have not been cleared for the whole length of the legal period permitted for them to remain in customs warehouses for another six months to permit their owners to process them and export them.

Also any fines that might have been due on such violation will be cancelled, the statement said.

In its session Saturday the Council of Ministers also decided to exempt the Amman-based joint Jordanian-Egyptian company for investment and development from registration fees and exempted the Egyptian trade centre in Amman from income tax on condition of reciprocity by Egyptian authorities.

UAE envoy arrives in Iran on peace bid

TEHRAN (Agencies) — United Arab Emirates (UAE) Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Rashid Abdullah Al Nuaimi arrived in Tehran on Saturday in what diplomats believed to be a fresh attempt to end the Gulf war between Iran and Iraq.

An Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman said Mr. Nuaimi would hold talks with Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati and other officials.

Tehran Radio said he carried a message for President Ali Khamenei from UAE President Sheikh Zayed Ibn Sultan Al Nahayyan.

It quoted Mr. Nuaimi as saying on arrival that he would discuss regional issues, good neighbourliness and next month's Islamic foreign ministers' conference in Morocco, which both Iran and Iraq are expected to attend.

Diplomats in Abu Dhabi told Reuters the minister's two-day visit was part of a concerted peace bid by the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), which comprises Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

Diplomatic sources in Abu Dhabi were quoted as saying by

the AP that Mr. Nuaimi will arrange for a possible visit to Abu Dhabi by President Khamenei as the peak of mounting efforts to find an acceptable peaceful solution to the Iran-Iraq war.

Sheikh Zayed, whose country enjoys good relations with Tehran, has been seeking Iran-Iraq peace both through individual or collective GCC efforts.

Arab diplomatic sources say the mediation bids were expected to come to a head at the pan-Islamic foreign ministers conference, scheduled for Jan. 6-11 in the Moroccan city of Fez.

The Islamic conference will discuss "a new peace initiative to end the Gulf war," a diplomat in Abu Dhabi told the AP. "The basic points in the new initiative are offering compensation for both warring countries, in return for Iran's acceptance to begin direct peace talks with Iraq," the diplomat said, refusing to be named.

The secretary-general of the 45-nation Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), Sharifuddin Pirzadeh, has been quoted as saying that he did not exclude the convening of a pan-Islamic summit conference to be devoted to an Iran-Iraq peace settlement.

Pakistan will not change its Afghan policy, Junejo says

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo said on Saturday Islamabad would not change its policy against direct talks with the present Soviet-backed Afghan government of President Babrak Karmal.

Mr. Junejo told parliament at the end of a five-day foreign policy debate there was no justification in demands for direct talks with a government which Pakistan does not recognise.

Most of the 113 members of a party-less parliament who spoke in the debate supported the policy.

But several government critics called for direct talks for an early political settlement, which is the demand also of several banned political parties which are not represented in parliament.

Pakistani and Afghan foreign ministers have been holding indirect talks through a United Nations intermediary, seeking a withdrawal of an estimated 115,000 Soviet troops in Afghanistan.

A sixth round of the talks at Geneva, which were begun in 1982, was put off last week until late February or early March next year.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Queen to honour new nurses, midwives

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor will patronise a ceremony on Jan. 5th marking the graduation of a new batch of nurses and midwives. Eighty-eight male and female nurses will receive their degrees in a ceremony at the Palace of Culture organised by the Ministry of Health. The current graduates are the 30th batch of nurses and 31st batch of midwives according to the director of the Health Ministry's Nursing Department, and have completed three and two years of training, respectively. The director added that of late Jordanian girls have been showing an increasing tendency towards becoming nurses.

Energy minister meets Iraqi official

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Hisham Khatib met with visiting Iraqi Ministry of Oil Under Secretary Abdul Mune'm Samarra'e on Saturday and discussed cooperation in oil related affairs between Iraq and Jordan. In a statement to the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, Mr. Samarra'e said his current visit to Jordan indicates both countries' keen interest to exchange visits on all levels in order to promote bilateral cooperation, especially in the areas of oil industries and exploration, marketing fuel derivatives, and exchange of expertise, in addition to setting up joint ventures in both countries. Mr. Samarra'e, who arrived here on Friday for a several-day visit, praised His Majesty King Hussein's wise policy and Jordan's stance on the Iran-Iraq war.

Aviation delegation returns from Rabat

AMMAN (Petra) — Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) Director Khaled Mohammad Ali returned to Amman Saturday after leading the Jordanian delegation at the 27th meeting of the Arab Civil Aviation Council in Morocco. The delegation submitted several working papers to the meeting dealing with the subject of air piracy and assault on air passengers, according to Mr. Ali. He said that the delegation also took part in the fifth meeting of the Arab Civil Aviation Academy which was concluded in Rabat on Dec. 24th. The delegation included representatives of the Ministry of Transport and the CAA.

Friends of Handicapped hold reception

AMMAN (Petra) — The Friends of the Handicapped Students Club of the University of Jordan hosted a reception Saturday for a number of handicapped students at the university. Dean of Students' Affairs Dr. Hamdi Abdul Rahman reviewed in his speech at the reception the university's role in supporting handicapped students, adding that it set up the club two years ago to help handicapped students inside and outside the university. Handicapped Sport Federation Secretary General Yusef Al Karmi also delivered a speech in which he described the federation's activities. At the end of the reception Dr. Abdul Rahman presented prizes to a number of the club's members who have played effective role in serving the handicapped.

Al Al Bayt conference set for April

AMMAN (Petra) — The Royal Academy for Islamic Civilisation Research (Al Al Bayt Foundation) will be holding its fifth annual conference on April 14. This was decided during a meeting of the academy's council held Saturday under the chairmanship of its President Nasreddin Al Assad during which it discussed a number of issues on its agenda and also endorsed the academy's budget for the next year.



His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the personal representative of His Majesty King Hussein, Armed Forces Headquarters in Amman (Petra) confers with Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Gen. Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker on Saturday at the Armed Forces Headquarters in Amman (Petra).

Khatib stresses value of solar heating

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Hisham Khatib has underlined the need for improving solar heaters manufactured in Jordan so that more and more people will be encouraged to use them and save energy.

Addressing the opening session of a seminar to discuss the importance of solar heaters, Dr. Khatib said that once citizens are confident that solar heaters are useful and will save money and energy in an efficient manner, they will no doubt use them more and more. He said that towards this end the ministries of energy and industry and trade should cooperate in setting certain specifications and standards for solar heaters to enable the manufacturers to manufacture

better quality products for the market. In the coming year the Ministry of Energy will open a special office to offer service to the public in the field of solar heaters, and its staff will inform the public on the types of heaters produced by local companies, ways of maintaining them and the benefits of using solar heaters, the minister announced.

Dr. Ali Al Anani, director of energy department, said that the seminar will discuss several topics pertaining to the production, testing, maintenance and use of solar heaters.

Solar heaters used at home can save a lot of energy because they offer free heating during the day enabling homes to have hot water

almost all day long, Dr. Anani said. He said that everything possible should be done to alert the public about solar heaters and their usefulness so that the country can save energy.

Solar heaters are very economical because no electricity or other fuel is used in heating water for domestic use, Dr. Anani added.

Once improvements are introduced to the current system of manufacturing solar heaters the public will have more confidence in them and will use them more and more, Dr. Anani pointed out.

Under secretaries of the ministries of energy, industry and trade, and other officials attended the session.

Seminar on laboratory use opens

IRBID (Petra) — Yarmouk University President Adnan Badran opened a training course Saturday on the use of laboratories and maintenance of equipment in the Arab World.

The 12-day course, organised in cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and the International Union of Biological Sciences, includes delegates from Jordan, Egypt, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, North Yemen, South Yemen, Lebanon and Bahrain.

Yarmouk University has given much attention to training biology teachers in government schools

and has offered them university facilities for acquiring post graduate training, Dr. Badran said.

With the help of UNESCO, Yarmouk University intends to organise and finance training courses for teachers at government schools to raise their standards and increase their capability and skill in teaching students, Dr. Badran announced.

Dr. Badran added that biology is one of the most complicated subjects for students, due to continuous developments in this field in the last half century, and it has become more and more difficult for teachers to cope with the different discoveries, laboratory techniques, and other fields in bio-

logy. Yarmouk University has therefore arranged for courses to be held at its premises to help teachers offer better service to the community.

Also addressing the opening session was Dr. Victor Billeh, Dean of Scientific Research and Higher Studies at Yarmouk University, who underlined the importance of the subjects in the 12-day course.

Dr. Mohammad Sabbarini from the department of education underscored the pioneering role of Yarmouk University in promoting the teaching of sciences in Jordan and the Arab World at large. He stressed the importance of laboratories for both teachers and scientists, and also spoke in some detail about the topics to be taken up at by the participants.

The participants will hear lectures and do practical work at the university and will visit the Marine Science Station at Aqaba for a close-hand study on samples of plants and marine life.

CAEU meets to coordinate Arab groups

AMMAN (Petra) — Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) Secretary General Mubad Al Obaidi chaired the fourth coordination meeting Saturday for Arab organisations and regional offices of Arab organisations and unions based in Amman. The meeting discussed working programmes for the unions, offices and organisations for the next year as well as the possibilities for cooperation and coordination within the framework of the Arab information network.

In his opening speech to the meeting Mr. Obaidi stressed the importance of bolstering joint Arab action and called for continuing cooperation among Arab organisations to enable them perform their role in the best manner.

He also called for setting up a permanent follow-up committee, the task of which will be to follow up former resolutions and recommendations of the committees and to submit the necessary reports to the meetings which are held by the CAEU and Arab organisations and unions.

PNC speaker condemns El Al attacks

AMMAN (Petra) — The Palestine National Council (PNC) condemned the terrorist attack launched on civilians at Rome and Vienna airports Friday. PNC Speaker Sheikh Abdul Hamid Al Saad said in a statement issued Saturday that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) strongly condemns all forms of terrorism practised against innocent people.

Sheikh Saad was speaking at a meeting here with Romanian Ambassador to Jordan Andrei Cervencovici, with whom he reviewed the latest developments in the Middle East region.

Health minister briefed on Jordan's mother and child health care centres

AMMAN (Petra) — The Health Ministry offers advanced care for mothers and children through its 97 centres around the country and is maintaining an inoculation programme for children up to the age of six to ensure that they remain in good health, Ministry of Health Director of Mother and Child Care Centres Dr. Zaid Al Kayed said Saturday.

He was speaking during an inspection tour by Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh and his aides to the Mother and Child Care Department and a number of centres in Amman.

During the tour the minister was briefed on the different services offered to mothers, pregnant women, and children. Dr. Kayed said that the centres give proper care to pregnant women, who undergo periodic examinations, including laboratory tests, and that the centres send midwives on

visits to pregnant women at home on a regular basis for a period of six weeks after delivery.

In some cases, the centres provide birth control pills to women whose condition does not permit them to bear more children, Dr. Kayed said.

The Health Minister was briefed on reports which showed that in the past year a total of 16,436 pregnant women have been vaccinated against diseases that might affect their unborn children.

According to Dr. Kayed, each

new born child undergoes a comprehensive medical examination and continues to undergo regular examinations until it is one year of age, for the purpose of uncovering deformities or diseases.

During the past year ministry centres offered services to 15,418 children under one year of age and inoculated 54,246 children against polio, whooping cough, Jyphtheria and measles, Dr. Kayed added.

He said that the Health Ministry maintains a programme of lectures and films for mothers to help them with child care at home, and also continues to offer them advice during their visits to the centres.

During the tour, the minister inspected a training centre for staff in charge of mother and child care centres and commended their efforts and services.

CVDB loans JD 7.863 million in 1985

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cities and Villages Development Bank (CVDB) has granted loans totalling JD 7.863 million to various municipal and village councils in the Kingdom during 1985, of which JD 5.741 million went to municipal councils and the rest to the village councils, according to CVDB Director General John A. Saleh Al Horani.

In an interview with the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Mr. Horani said that most of the loans went to finance the construction of roads, market places, building slaughter houses, industrial and handicraft estates, car parks, purchasing lands for public utility purposes, building schools, extending electricity and water networks and

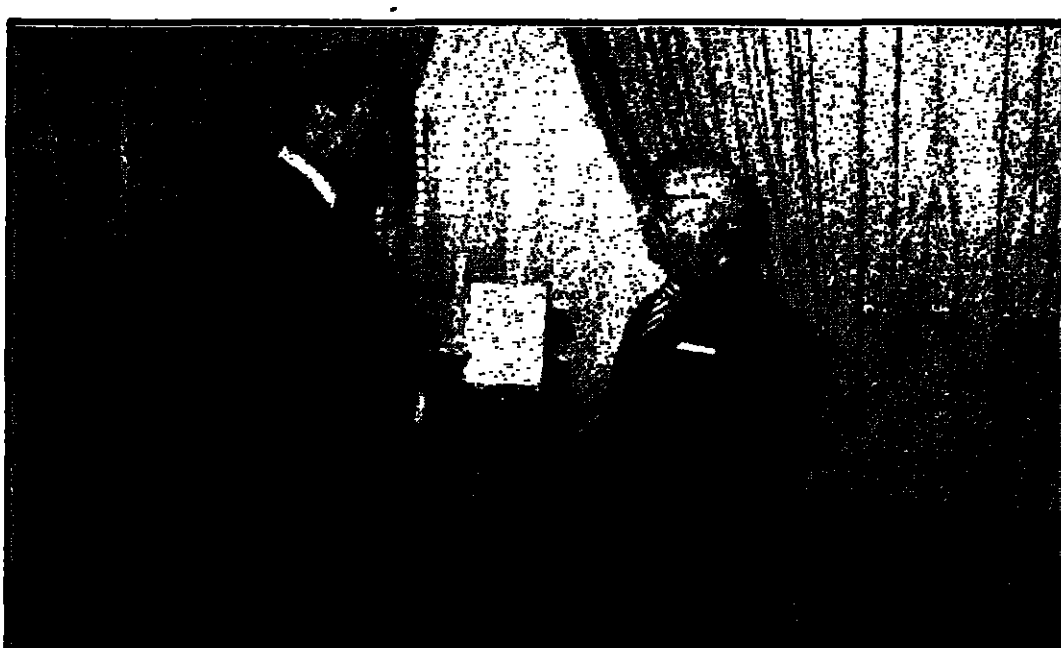
installing sewerage systems. The lion's share of these loans, he said, went to Amman and Irbid municipalities, with the first receiving JD 2.638 million and the second JD 3.2 million.

The government of Jordan, the Central Bank of Jordan, and local councils all have shares in the bank's capital but its funds are also replenished through foreign loans from the World Bank, the European Investment Bank, and the European Economic Community, Mr. Horani added.

He said that the CVDB grants loans at an interest rate of 6 to 7.5 per cent for public services projects but these rise to 8.5 per cent annually if the loan is to finance a profit-making project.

The municipal and village councils can pay back loans over 11 to 14 years, Mr. Horani pointed out.

He said that most municipal and village councils suffer from lack of funds to pay for their projects and therefore they resort to borrowing. These councils have no proper means of collecting their dues, spend more money than is necessary on some projects, and borrow big loans for purchasing land, asphalt roads or other different projects, and so they fall in debt and resort to the CVDB for loans, Mr. Horani said. He added that these councils should have well-planned budgets, cut down on spending and improve their means of collection if they want to reduce borrowing.



Mr. Mukhtar Al Zaben, Jordan's honorary consul in Sao Paulo, Brazil, receives the Jordanian Al Kawkab Medal of the Second Order from Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri, who presented the award Saturday on behalf of His Majesty King Hussein in recognition of Mr. Zaben's efforts in projecting Jordan's image and in serving Jordanian citizens in Brazil (Petra photo).

Ministry of Labour working paper examines the problem of begging

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Labour and Social Development hosted a conference last Thursday on the phenomenon of begging in Jordan, during which the ministry presented a working paper on the subject and participants assessed the negative impact of begging and efforts to reduce the incidence of begging in Jordan.

These efforts began in 1956 when the first home for the welfare of beggars was established in Jericho on the occupied West Bank, and then another home was established in 1970 in the central Jordan Valley town of Karameh.

A study undertaken in 1978 has shown that nearly half of all beggars live in Amman, that 74 per cent of beggars are male, that 61 per cent of beggars have adopted the habit of begging, that 25 per cent of them took it as a profession, and that five per cent have resorted to it because of weak family relations.

The Ministry of Labour and Social Development has been keen on putting an end to begging and therefore established a special centre at Juwaidah in 1982 to receive beggars, study their cases and then classify them into categories.

Elderly people among them will be accommodated and cared for in the centres, while juveniles who are under 18 will either be sent to the homes for the welfare of the homeless, or released under financial guarantees signed by their guardians. Mentally-ill beggars will also be returned to their families, who will be contacted and asked to sign guarantees whereby they undertake to care for them and not to leave them in public places. The poor among this category will be referred to the social development departments for

receiving the necessary assistance. The Ministry of Social Development spent JD 261,000 on such cases last year, in addition to JD 750 paid as salaries to aged people who have no supporters.

The paper pointed out that the monthly statistical reports showed an increase in the number of beggars during the period from 1981 to 1983. The statistics said that the number of beggars was 160 in 1981, while it jumped to 242 in 1982 and to 910 in 1983. In 1983 683 were under 18, 109 are over 60, while 88 were between 41 and 60 and the rest between 18 and 40.

The paper attributed the aggravation of the problem and the high increase in their number to social changes and to an increase in the number of newcomers who brought children and women to beg.

The paper added that combating this phenomenon is the joint responsibility of the Ministries of Interior, Justice, Awaqaf, Information and Health, Amman Municipality, Public Security and the General Union of Voluntary Societies.

The paper also cited the increase in the number of mentally ill and the limited role of the Ministry of Health in this regard as an obstacle to putting an end to this problem. It also called for alleviating the problem of female beggars, who usually escape reform efforts.

Among the other difficulties hampering the elimination of beggars is the lack of financial incentives for the staff in charge of following up on this project. It was noted that after official office hours and with the failure to collect the financial guarantees, beggars resume begging. The paper proposed that female beggars be accommodated in the Juwaidah

care home, which can accommodate 15 each night, and that teams to combat begging be assigned to work for 12 hours a day for a compensation of JD 35 a month.

Also recommended were two centres, one for males and another for females, for classifying the cases within 36 hours and assigning a judge to review their cases.

Among other recommendations are a ban on the sale of some commodities, and cleaning cars at road intersections, referring each case to the centres, and empowering administrative governors to issue sentences against beggars referred to them from classification centres or social development centres. The paper also called on all preachers and imams to advise people of the negative impact of begging, particularly as most beggars use mosques as permanent places of business.

The proposals included a call for the Ministry of Health to undertake a mental survey for the incurable cases with the intent to provide them with the necessary care instead of leaving them as a source of trouble for the public.

The participants at Thursday's meeting decided to form a social committee which will study this problem and try to find the solution.

Attending the meeting were Ministry of Social Development's Under Secretary Mohammad Ali Wardam, assistant Public Security director Major General Nasouh Muhyeddin, and a number of senior officials from the ministry of Social Development, Ministry of Health, Amman Governorate, Amman Municipality, and GUVS.

Terrorism should not disrupt peace efforts, Reagan tells Peres

(Continued from page 1)

was to tarnish the image and credibility of the PLO."

"Those who carried out the attacks were bent on disrupting the strong relations between the PLO, Italy and Austria," said Mr. Khalaf (Abu Iyad).

He urged all Arab countries to live up to their responsibility and "cease training" dissident factions of the PLO.

"We condemn these attacks and believe that our voice should cry out against whoever stood behind them," Mr. Khalaf told the agency. "Neither the Palestinian people nor any Arab people should bear responsibility for such attacks. These people should be kept away from those who instigate and finance such attacks and provide training grounds for these dissident (PLO) groups."

In Amman, the speaker of the Palestine National Council strongly condemned the airport attacks.

Sheikh Abdul Hamid Al Saad told the Romanian ambassador to Jordan, Andrei Cervencovici that the PLO condemned all forms of terrorism against innocents.

In Paris, PLO representative Ibrahim Souss condemned what

he called the irresponsibility of Israeli authorities who had accused the PLO.

"They want to keep the PLO completely out of the peace process," he said on French Television.

Also interviewed on French Television, Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Boutros Ghali described the airport attacks as "a manoeuvre aimed at putting new obstacles in front of those who are trying to set up a peace process."

"We hope the two governments of Italy and Austria, if they manage to find out what state or organisation is behind these acts of terrorism, will declare it officially in order to prove the PLO is innocent," Mr. Ghali said.

A Palestinian newspaper published in East Jerusalem also condemned the attacks, saying they aimed "to harm the credibility and political programme of the PLO."

Al Quds wrote in an editorial: "These acts create excuses and lay the ground for those who try to portray the Palestinian people and the PLO as terrorists."

"We hope that world countries, particularly the United States, will draw the lessons from this act and recognise the PLO and Palestinian

rights, because denying them (will) lead to further escalation of attacks."

In Beirut, a suicide group calling itself the "Arab guerrilla cells" also claimed responsibility for the attacks.

"The Arab guerrilla cells... declares responsibility for the Rome and Vienna operations against two Zionist targets," the group said in a typewritten statement in Arabic delivered to an international news agency in Beirut.

It said the attacks, at check-in counters of the Israeli airline El Al, were blows "against bargaining, against the Arabs of Camp David, against negotiations, against peace with and recognition of the Israeli enemy..."

The group also opposed Mr. Arafat's leadership of the PLO, the Feb. 11 agreement between Jordan and the PLO and ending "the Palestinian armed revolution," the statement said.

The Italian news agency ANSA also reported that an anonymous telephone call to its Milan office with a similar responsibility claim.

The Kuwait newspaper Al Qabas reported that an anonymous man in a long-distance telephone call claimed to its edi-

tors that the Rome and Vienna attacks were committed by the PLO's Fateh group and its military wing Al Assifa.

Claiming to speak on behalf of Fateh, the caller read a lengthy statement to the paper saying that "sponsored the Rome-Vienna operation in response to Abu Amar's (Arafat) Cairo Declaration."

"Terror begets terror," Al Qabas quoted the caller's statement as saying. "These (attacks) are but a first warning to America and Arab reaction, mainly the reactionaries of the PLO."

The paper noted that the tenor of the statement indicated that the caller belonged to some faction opposed to Mr. Arafat's leadership.

In Saudi Arabia, the newspaper Al Bilad said the airport attacks were "possibly engineered by the (Israeli intelligence) Mossad or some other quarter in collusion with Israel to defame the PLO."

"There is no justification for anyone to trigger such an attack in Italy and Austria, which are friendly to the Arabs, apart from being bent on tarnishing the Arab image and undermining their just struggle," Al Bilad said.

The two survivors were under heavy guard in a Vienna hospital.

Alfred Rupp, a police lieutenant-colonel and head of Schwechat airport security, told the Associated Press that "it is clear that the two attacks were related," although there was no firm evidence of a link on Saturday.

Two Americans died on Saturday raising the Rome death toll to 15, including five U.S. citizens. Italian officials also said there were only four gunmen and not five involved in the assault.

Don Maland, 30, of Florida died at Rome's St. Giovanni Hospital. Later in the day, Elena Tomarello, 67, died at San Camillo Hospital, according to the Italian Interior Ministry.

Italian authorities identified Ms. Tomarello as Italian. The U.S. State Department said Saturday that she was an American.

Five of the 15 dead were American. The others were 11-year-old Natasha Simpson, a resident of Rome; John Buonocore, 20, of Delaware; and Frederick Gage, 29, of Wisconsin.

Rome attack described as 'revenge' for Israeli raid

(Continued from page 1)

Milan's Corriere della Sera said that investigators believe, based on preliminary examinations, that the Rome attackers were heavily drugged with amphetamines during the attack.

The daily along with other newspapers also reported Saturday that investigators are searching for possible accomplices who may have provided money in Italy for the attack.

Il Giornale, a Milan daily, and other newspapers said the four men arrived in Rome in early December.

They said the men stayed at two cheap hotels and rarely left their rooms. When they checked out Friday they were carrying only small hand bags.

"They were too little to contain the weapons used for the massacre," Il Giornale quoted an unidentified hotel employee as saying. "Therefore they must have gotten the weapons elsewhere."

Interior Minister Oscar Luigi Scalfaro told reporters on Friday that "it is unthinkable that the

guerrillas came from abroad carrying the bombs and weapons."

Autopsies were being performed Saturday at the Institute of Legal Medicine in Rome, officials said.

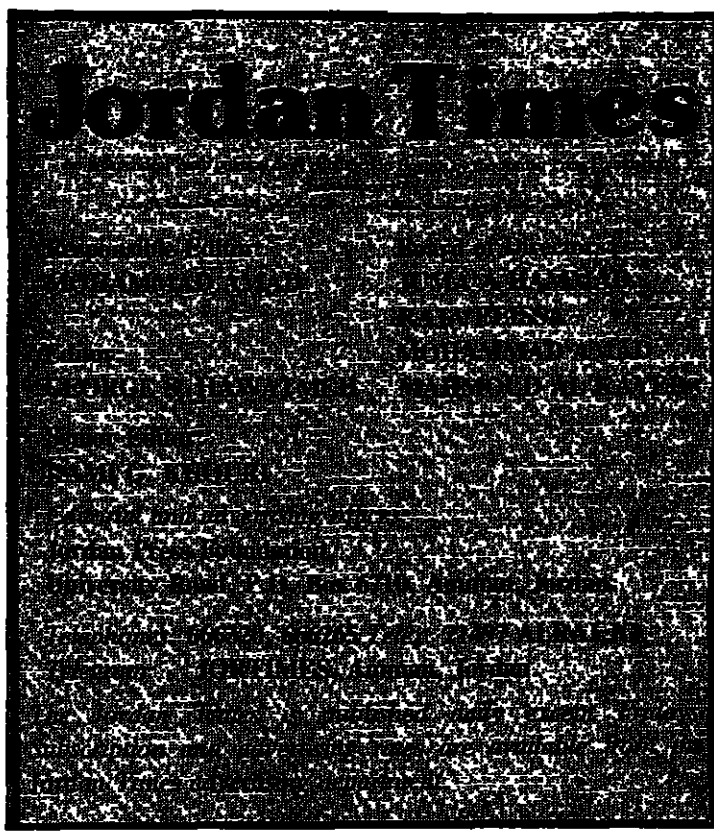
Interior Ministry officials initially had put the number of assailants at five. Later, they said the fifth man actually was an Algerian tourist.

The ANSA news agency said the confusion arose because witnesses thought they saw the man, 25-year-old Tigrini Abeggren, with a gun before he was wounded.

It was not until he regained consciousness at Rome's San' Eugenio Hospital that police were able to ascertain who he was, it said.

Italian police said the injured guerrilla who had given his name as Mohammad Sarham, said he was born in the Shatila Palestinian refugee camp on the outskirts of Beirut.

Italian Magistrate Domenico Sica, who specialises in investigating guerrilla actions, questioned Sarham on Saturday but



New crime by terrorists

IT IS significant but hardly surprising that Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) were among the first parties to condemn the twin attacks on Rome and Vienna airports on Friday. This is so because the attacks are not only acts of terrorism and a crime against humanity which we all condemn and abhor but also because these barbaric actions are clearly directed against our own interests and values.

Italy and Austria are among the foremost Western European nations that support the Palestinian people's cause and call for the establishment of peace based on justice. Not only did these countries give recognition to the PLO and the Palestinian people's rights but they also tried to pave the way for a dialogue between them and the rest of Europe for the sake of acquiring more support for their just cause. Therefore, whoever perpetrated the two operations at the airports aimed primarily at destroying this unique relationship and damaging the image of the Palestinian people not only in Austria and Italy but throughout Europe and the whole world.

As to the timing of the two operations, it must be interpreted as a clear attempt to project a contradiction in the acts and deeds of the PLO, following its declaration in Cairo in which it clearly defined its position with regard to terrorism and resistance against occupation. It would be foolhardy to expect this attempt to be the last in trying to discredit the PLO and Arab moderation generally as it is part of a campaign designed to damage the Palestinian people's image abroad and to present them as mere terrorists.

International acts of terrorism committed by Arabs can only offer Israel the chance it wants to step up its military and political campaign against us and as such they must not only be condemned but also fought at all levels and with every means within our capabilities. There is only one way to defeat terrorism and it is to wage a relentless fight against its perpetrators and their purpose.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Soviets' call for peace

WE are deeply satisfied with an announcement by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev that 1986 will witness intensified Soviet efforts towards establishing peace in the Middle East, ending the Gulf war and solving the Afghan problem. This announcement clearly reflects a determination on Moscow's part to contribute directly towards bringing about world peace and stability. This announcement represents a call to all concerned parties to cooperate with Moscow to achieve peace. One of the concerned parties is the United States which continues to support the Israeli aggressors. This call urges the United States to abandon its old desire of handling the Middle East issue by itself, without involving other major powers. Washington had been intent on imposing its hegemony on the Middle East, a policy totally rejected by the Arabs. The United States has to abandon its selfishness because it will not find a suitable atmosphere for such policy in our region. Washington has to realise that Moscow can play a meaningful role towards the establishment of peace and must therefore cooperate with it to safeguard its own interests. Peace is not a right for the Americans to give to the peoples of this region, nor should it serve as a means of exercising blackmail on them. Peace is a right for humanity and is something sought by the whole world.

Al Dustour: Israeli threats

ISRAELI leaders are now accusing Jordan as being the ground where resistance activity against occupation inside the West Bank and the Gaza Strip is being planned. They are also claiming that the Arabs under Zionist rule cannot think of resistance activity by themselves and have to ask their kinsmen abroad to help them do that. At the same time Israel is making a big fuss over the deployment of Syrian missiles in Syrian territory to protect Syrian citizens. They are claiming that these missiles are a threat to their air operations over Lebanon, as if Arab air space should be open to Israeli planes without any resistance, and the Arabs have no right to defend themselves against aggression. Meanwhile, Israeli political and military leaders alike are threatening some kind of action against Syria, specially now that it is seeking a rapprochement with Jordan. These leaders are accusing Jordan and Syria of joining forces to revive the eastern front against the Israeli enemy. Of course the Israelis are appalled to see the Arabs mending fences and seeking peace and stability for their countries. They are thus escalating tension and increasing their accusations of and charges against the Arabs to justify an aggression on them. The Arabs should take the Israeli threats seriously and should close their ranks and be ready for any eventuality.

Sawt Al Shuaib: Zionist fears

A number of factors have contributed towards the present state of tension in the Middle East which Israel has created in preparation for a possible aggression on the Arab nation. The inter-Arab détente, the end of the civil war in Lebanon and the strengthening of Syrian defence lines have all stirred fear in the hearts and minds of the Zionists who had dreamed of keeping the Arab nation in a state of weakness and division. The Israelis have succeeded in the past in achieving their objectives and goals when the Arabs were plagued with disputes and divisions and when their leaders were at the throats of one another. The Israelis meant to keep the status quo unchanged and hoped to keep their neighbours weak and undecided so that more settlements can be built on the occupied territories and occupation can be maintained unhindered. Israeli war minister Yitzhak Rabin's threats to Syria are tantamount to a declaration of war and clearly display the Israeli enemy's aggressive intentions and evil designs against peace.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Jordan-Egypt deal could have been better

By Dr. Fahed Fawaz

IN BILATERAL agreements between Jordan and other Arab countries, one expects terms and conditions advantageous to the Jordanian side. Not that Jordanian negotiators are smarter or can outmanoeuvre their counterparts, but because Arab countries are expected to appreciate Jordan's unique position, its huge national responsibilities, and its limited financial and economic resources.

However, this expectation was not reflected in the declaration issued by the joint Jordanian-Egyptian committee following recent high level meetings in Cairo, during which the committee sought to "reinforce the economic and trading cooperation between the two countries." There were no unilateral advantages for Jordan. The points agreed upon were either transactions of equal footing, or worse still one-sided Jordanian con-

cessions, like mutual exemption of residency permits which were granted in order to clear the way for the signing of the agreement.

There was, also, an insistence on limiting the exchange of commodities to those specifically listed in the protocol and to the so-called equal transactions.

Jordan does not discriminate between one exported commodity or another. The purpose of the limitations was meant to exclude certain Egyptian commodities that enjoy a favourable demand in the international market such as rice and onions. The Egyptian side prefers to spare such commodities to export to countries other than Jordan for hard currency earnings.

On the other hand, the agreed price for Jordanian cement was extremely low. It is believed to be even lower than the variable cost of production. We do not know if the previously

agreed price was amended upwards. The joint declaration did not mention any such amendment. If the same old price was maintained, then the actual price would effectively be even lower, due to the depreciation of the dollar value against European currencies by some 15 per cent, and against the Jordanian dinar by some 8 per cent. The chairman of Jordan Cement Company said last week that the sale of cement to Egypt had not taken place yet and that there was no sign to indicate when it would happen.

The joint declaration brought with it many restrictions. Exchangeable commodities were defined by name, with a quota for each item, and a ceiling for every commodity. Most of the restrictions were aimed at limiting the exchange of commodities and preventing excess over the set limits. There was no suggestion that allows expansion of trade to

the limits called for by the real needs of the two markets.

We also find an absolute equality and mutual exemptions for commercial centres in each country, despite the effective inequality in the currency used, the ability to transfer funds, to open letters of credits and to deal with public sector institutions and the public at large.

Economic feasibility studies were stipulated as a pre-condition for forming each joint company. We assume that this condition was introduced by the Egyptian side. This is a reasonable and justified requirement, but generally speaking the formation of joint projects just for the sake of cooperation, without looking at financial considerations, could hurt cooperation in the long run and cause setbacks and disappointments, and thus should be avoided. Jordan normally subscribes to all Arab joint projects irrespective of

financial considerations, but this practice should be reversed.

It is worth mentioning here that the contemplated joint company for transporting goods between Egypt and Iraq through Jordan, will replace activities which Jordanian transit companies had been posed to perform on their own.

It is unlikely that this new company will pay for the maintenance of the Jordanian road system or compensate for our subsidised fuel oil. Such venture could be profitable to its owners but not to the Jordanian economy and its transit sector. By the same token, air transport activities between Jordan and Egypt could have been liberated by a simple political decision: mutual exemption and an open skies policy. But this also did not happen either.

Jordan was the first Arab country to restore full dip-

lomatic ties with Egypt, breaking the ice and paving the way for other hesitant Arab countries to follow suit. It was a big and courageous step towards ending the isolation of a major Arab country which could and should play a leading role in contemporary Arab politics.

In so doing Jordan was not after economic or trading advantages. However, the private industrial sector was at the time suffering from stagnation and partial loss of Arab markets. It looked at Egypt as a trading partner with a great consumption and production capacity.

Despite all the above reservations, the joint declaration is still a step forward in brotherly relations between Jordan and Egypt. Other steps will no doubt follow to make the newly reestablished relationship more worthwhile to the two countries.



Guatemala faces a clouded future

After 31 years of brutal military rule, Guatemala sees some semblance of democracy. However, Vinicio Cerezo, the Christian Democrat president, will need every scrap of the flood-tide of hope carrying him forward, says David Gardner, recently in the country.

Mr. Vinicio Cerezo, the young Christian Democrat who has won a convincing victory in the run-off election for the Guatemalan presidency, takes over from the military regime in January with what is, by local standards, a flood-tide of hope carrying him forward.

He will need it to surmount the formidable obstacles he faces in re-establishing democracy in what is the largest and most traumatised country in civil war-ridden Central America.

After 31 years of brutal military rule, underpinned by a par-military influence based on the landed oligarchy and sectors of business, Mr. Cerezo confronts awesome problems.

The military remains firmly entrenched and sees itself as victorious in a 25-year-old struggle with a still-vigorous left-wing insurgency which has cost over 100,000 lives. Along with a collapsed economy, which in 1985 records a fifth straight year of falling per capita growth, this could undo the mildly reformist strategy of the new civilian government.

Tactically, the centre-right Christian Democrats assured their election victory by giving undertakings to the military and the private sector that their power and privileges would not be interfered with. Strategically, this appears to rule out badly needed structural reforms, in particular to the land tenure and tax systems, which Mr. Cerezo so far has breached with extreme caution.

He also promised to end human rights abuses; to give full freedom to the political and the labour movements; to tackle the death squads; to strengthen the judiciary; and to improve living standards for workers and the Mayan Indian peasants, who are a majority of Guatemala's 8 million people.

Such promises are generally viewed sceptically in a country which has seen the most savage violence witnessed in Latin America for generations.

Mr. Cerezo has said he will and can gradually win over the guerrillas to the democratic process. He would grant them the right to bear arms in self-defence — a right many Guatemalans, including himself, exercise anyway.

But any serious attempt to deliver on both sets of undertakings risks a collision.

The army will retain control over security and counter-insurgency, maintain a loud voice in development, transport and communications policy, and will have the right to name the Defence Minister.

Its physical control over the population remains largely unimpaired through the Civil Defence Patrols, into which nearly 1 million Indians in the central highlands have been press-ganged, and through the network of Vietnam-style "strategic hamlets" further north.

Mr. Cerezo has said he will make the patrols voluntary, but leave intact the garrisoned hamlets, "though this is not our model of development."

IRA steps up battle against security forces

By Colin McIntyre
Reuter

BELFAST — Republican guerrillas have adopted a new tactic in their fight against British security forces in Northern Ireland by targeting police stations and barracks rather than people.

This month five police stations in the province have been destroyed or damaged in mortar attacks by the Irish Republican Army (IRA), fighting to end British rule in Northern Ireland.

At the same time the IRA has sought to prevent them being repaired or rebuilt by warning local builders they would be killed if they accepted any contracts from the security forces.

The threats have frightened off 1,000 men, according to local trade union officials, and halted work on two new police stations in traditional townships Londonderry and Strabane, part of a 150-million-sterling (215-million-dollar) building and renovation programme.

The threats have also stopped work on a new high-security jail in Maghera, County Down, already four years behind schedule, and an extension to the top-security Maze prison.

While local politicians have called on the government to bring in the army to do the work, security officials doubt whether army engineers would be capable of carrying out the work to the required standard.

The government is considering bringing in contractors from mainland Britain and continental Europe, but will need to offer large salaries and round-the-clock protection. A number of former British servicemen now in the building trade are reported to have expressed interest if the price is right.

The new IRA campaign began last month when the outlawed organisation singled out three major companies it said were engaged in building "enemy fortresses" and warned that their workers would be killed unless they stopped within seven days.

"Our position is clear, the British cannot rule without collaboration and those who collaborate for personal profit must accept the consequences — execution," the IRA statement said. It added that the firms would be better employed building hospitals, homes and social facilities in deprived areas.

The companies announced they

were taking the threats seriously, on the advice of the police, and took their workers off all security force sites within days.

Last August the IRA murdered a Catholic builder in his Dublin home, accusing him of supplying materials for army barracks and border posts, and in the same week killed a retired shopkeeper they mistook for another builder accused of working for the security forces.

Last month a West German businessman who the IRA claimed was providing catering services for police stations was shot dead in Londonderry. Police said he had changed jobs four months before.

A senior government official, Nicholas Scott, insisted that the building and renovation programme for the security forces would continue.

"There will be someone to build and repair, but I am not prepared to go beyond that at the moment except to say that we will be considering the implications of this new campaign to attack security bases."

He attacked the IRA for what he termed their cynical contempt for the livelihood of hundreds of working people.

Local politician Sean Nesoon, a

member of the non-sectarian Alliance Party, said the IRA's campaign was directed as much at the minority Catholic population as the Protestant majority as the construction industry traditionally employed more Catholics.

The latest IRA campaign is widely seen as an attempt by the IRA to wreck a recent Anglo-Irish agreement giving Dublin a say in running the north, though the organisation denies there is any connection.

The IRA is against the accord, because it feels the agreement gives de facto recognition to the partition of Ireland, and also because the guerrillas stand to lose support to moderate nationalist groups if the accord succeeds in its aim of improving the lot of the minority community.

Government officials in Dublin see the new IRA campaign as an attempt to raise the climate of Protestant opposition to the agreement to fever pitch.

It is also viewed as an attempt to increase pressure on the predominantly Protestant police force, whose loyalty in the face of accusations of treachery from its own community is crucial to the success of this and any other agreement.

U.S. officials divided over Afghanistan

By Michael Battye
Reuter

WASHINGTON — A debate on Afghanistan within the U.S. government that has raged since Soviet troops intervened there six years ago appears to be reaching a new peak of intensity, officials say.

Since Soviet forces moved into Afghanistan on December 27, 1979, Washington has been divided broadly between moderates who prefer to seek a negotiated solution and hardliners eager to prolong Moscow's discomfiture.

Proponents of both points of view within the U.S. government clearly relish the opprobrium Moscow brought on itself among developing countries, especially Islamic nations, by its intervention and its subsequent war against Muslim guerrillas.

"They (the Soviets) hate the very mention of Afghanistan. They positively squirm with embarrassment at every international forum where the subject is brought up," said one official with evident satisfaction.

But the November summit between President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in Geneva has given fresh stimulus to the debate on what path the United States should follow in dealing with the issue.

Were there hints of new Soviet flexibility at the summit? That question alone has stimulated debate on what Washington should do and it appears

to have given a greater voice to those who see an accord on Afghanistan as a key to better relations between the superpowers.

U.S. officials, who asked not to be identified, said some in the administration believed Gorbachev did signal a desire to make a deal through a series of talks, mediated by the United Nations, between Kabul and Pakistan, where the U.S.-backed Muslim Mujahideen (Islamic warrior) guerrillas have their sanctuary.

The latest round of those talks takes place on December 16-20 in Geneva.

The U.S. officials said others were sure there was nothing fresh in what Gorbachev had to say and that Moscow had no intention of making concessions on its obvious desire to hold Afghanistan fast within its influence.

Until the summit, the prevailing view in the Reagan government was that Moscow had no intention of pulling out and that military aid to the guerrillas should be increased.

Those voices remain influential. "If the U.N. talks were going to go somewhere, they would already have done so," said Jim Phillips, Afghan expert at the Heritage Foundation, a think tank that has the ear of the administration.

"The Russians are experts at saying one thing and doing another. They are simply playing up the possibility of a regional settlement as a fig leaf for their con-

solidation of power," he told Reuters.

That tough attitude is reflected widely in official U.S. circles among people convinced that Reagan's hard line against Soviet involvement in world trouble spots is paying off.

They regard supporting the Mujahideen as "the cheapest way we have," as one official put it, of hurting Moscow.

Officials refuse to discuss the cost of that support and outsiders say they really do not know the price tag.

American newspaper reports have put this year's aid figure at more than \$250 million. "That may be right, it may be wrong, but it does indicate how seriously we take it," one official said.

Some sources say Washington is considering supplying anti-aircraft missiles to the Mujahideen to deal with the big problem of Soviet air power, especially helicopter gunships.

Officials refuse comment on such possibilities, in line with the blanket refusal to discuss aid. But they do say there will be no diminution of U.S. aid before an agreement is made.

Since the summit, however, there has been a noticeable rise in interest in the United Nations talks.

Selig Harrison, of the independent Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, said: "The idea that the Soviets were

not ready to negotiate was called into question by the summit. Now, for the first time since the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan, the idea of a negotiated settlement is being taken seriously at high level."

The officials said Washington would probably accept a deal that would lead to a Kabul government akin to the one that existed before the Communist coup of 1978 — a government that would make its own decisions while remaining close to Moscow.

The officials stress, however, that even if Gorbachev was signalling a new flexibility on Afghanistan, it could still be some time before the U.S. talks are resolved.

But, in one indication of a new optimism, officials say that Washington is already considering devoting some time to Afghanistan at the next meeting between Secretary of State George Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

They said that if the U.N. talks make serious progress, the subject could dominate the meeting.

U.S. officials said Washington had written to the United Nations to make a formal declaration that the United States was willing to act as a guarantor of an Afghan peace pact.

They said the move was made deliberately before the U.N. talks reconvened to test the idea of new Soviet flexibility.

Growing number of demonstrations reflects new spirit of change in China

By Mark O'Neill
Reuter

PEKING — Street demonstrations in China, including the first known protests against nuclear tests, indicate a groundswell of discontent despite five years of growing prosperity, Western diplomats have said.

They said the protests, reflecting a wide range of grievances, had been met with a restrained attitude from the central government.

But some of the issues now being debated in the streets were highly sensitive, the diplomats said, and if the protests continued the government's tolerance could not be taken for granted.

In the past week, students from the Muslim Uighur minority have mounted street demonstrations in Peking and Shanghai to oppose several government policies in their home province of Xinjiang on China's border with the Soviet Union.

Earlier, starting in September, students in Peking and other cities staged protests against rising food prices, official corruption and what they saw as excessive Japanese influence on China's economic development.

In April, scores of former Peking residents exiled to remote provinces during the cultural revolution nearly 20 years ago picketed the city hall for permission to return to the capital to live.

They appealed directly to Deng

Xiaoping, China's top leader and architect of the current economic reforms.

"That demonstration was put down firmly but tactfully and there seems to have been no further reaction," one Western diplomat said. "Peking's policy seems to be to deal carefully with these protests and not with a heavy hand."

The first sign of Uighur unrest was on December 12. About 1,000 students demonstrated outside the Xinjiang regional government headquarters in Urumqi demanding a halt to nuclear tests at the Lop Nor facility in the Gobi desert, 450 km to the southeast.

They also called on Peking to stop dumping convicts in their remote desert region and to relax

harsh birth control measures affecting the region's seven million Muslims, more than half the total population.

Ten days later, several hundred Uighur students made similar demands in a demonstration in Peking, prompting the foreign ministry to issue a statement defending its nuclear policy.

China exploded its first atomic bomb at Lop Nor in 1964 and has since developed a range of land and missiles.

The foreign ministry said that, while the Chinese government wanted nuclear weapons banned and destroyed, "in the present international situation, it is necessary to conduct a small number of nuclear tests to safeguard China's security."

A modern journey along the old caravan route

National Geographic News

WASHINGTON — In Aden, capital of South Yemen, red banners call for "immortality to the Martyrs of the Revolution" and "Glory to the People and the Party."

Yet in most parts of the country, remarkably little has changed since the days of camel caravans. In the crowded Suq al Tam marketplace in Aden, the bouquet of frankincense and myrrh, of rose attar and sandalwood mingles with the scent of cloves, cinnamon, coffee, cardamom, and thyme. People chew "kat," a mild stimulant.

Despite South Yemen's new socialism, places like the medieval town of Al Mukalla still hark back more to Islam than to Marx. "Allah akbar! Allah akbar!" ("God is great!") calls the muezzin in his minaret at 4:30 each morning.

Retracing "Arabia's Frankincense Trail" in the October National Geographic, writer Thomas Abercrombie and his photographer-wife, Lynn, found the entire area of South Yemen almost as isolated as in the first millennium B.C., when herbs, spices, and incense were coveted commodities.

Journey through Arabia

The first American journalists to gain access to South Yemen, the Abercrombies followed remnants of the ancient incense road some 2,400 miles through Arabia, from southern Oman, over Yemen's high mountains, and across the dunes and black volcanic deserts of Saudi Arabia to Petra, a once wealthy Nabatean settlement lying in Jordan.

"In Roman times a rugged journey of some 80 marches, the trail still offers challenges," reports Thomas Abercrombie. "People along the way, although hos-

pitable, have their reasons to be chary of outsiders. Pro-Western countries astride the ancient route share it uneasily with the Soviet-backed regime in South Yemen; Saudi Arabia militantly guards strict Islamic traditions.

"Many areas bow to no government except local renegade sheikhs," he says. "Here sub-machine guns are part of everyone's kit. All in all the journey was probably more convenient back in the first century."

Because of the restrictions on crossing international boundaries, Abercrombie was sometimes forced to backtrack. Once, he had to travel for two weeks to reach a point that was only 15 miles from where he started.

Trade patterns as well as boundaries have changed. Today in southern Arabia, where the best of the frankincense trees grow, just a few tons of the aromatic are produced each year, mainly for rituals and health uses. At the time of Christ, more than 3,000 tons may have been exported annually to consecrate temples, mask the odour of cremations, make cosmetics, and treat every ill from gout to a "broken head."

'OPEC of incense'

As a scholar in South Yemen explained: "It was a giant industry. The whole civilised world craved incense for their altars. South Arabia controlled the source. It developed a powerful cartel, a kind of OPEC of its time."

The first recorded mention of frankincense appeared on the 15th-century B.C. tomb of Queen Hatshepsut, who had sent an expedition to the land of Punt (probably the Somali coast) to bring back frankincense.

Myrrh, a darker, richer aromatic, perfumed the royal mummies of Egypt and was mentioned in the Old Testament as a main ingredient in the anointing oil of



Arid successor to ancient Marib, largest of the Arabian incense cities, stands awry atop the tell that partially entombs the old, ruined city. Marib may have been the capital of Saba, realm of the fabled Queen of Sheba, who brought "such abundance of spices" to King Solomon.

the Jews. In 450 B.C., Herodotus, the Greek Father of History, said of Arabia's aromatics: "The whole country is scented with them, and exhales an odour marvelously sweet."

The scarcity of water that made camels such a necessity on the frankincense trail may soon be alleviated in North Yemen. With

financial aid from the United Arab Emirates, the government is building a new dam near Marib, the capital of ancient Sheba, or Saba.

Soon, oil may also help the North Yemeni economy. Abercrombie joined a convoy of trucks loaded with caustic soda and drilling mud for their two-hour run to a well "in the middle

of nowhere."

"It's a wildcat all right," the drilling foreman told him. "The nearest oil well is 600 miles away — on the other side of Arabia."

Oil may easily eclipse the modest North Yemeni frankincense trade, and finance new ways of living, but one custom seems there to stay. The habit-forming leaf called kat, chewed by most Yemenis, is

the country's most profitable crop.

"Outsized during the work week throughout most of South Yemen, kat is still part of the daily ritual in the North, at once a joy and a curse," says Abercrombie.

Soon after midday the whole country closes down as men begin to shop for pucks of leaves, then gather with friends for the camaraderie of the chew.

Nearby, the North Yemeni government is building a \$90 million dam in hopes of irrigating the parched desert soil. An oil boom may help fuel Marib's revival.

First known photos of Yemen featured at U.S. university

BOSTON — The first known photographs of Yemen are being displayed in an exhibition at Harvard University.

The photographs were taken in 1856 by Auguste Bartholdi, the French sculptor who gained worldwide fame three decades later with his creation of the Statue of Liberty, which has graced the harbour of New York City for a century.

Bartholdi's photographs of Yemen include views of Mocha and the fortification walls of the port of Hodeida. Several of his photographs, which were taken during his travels through Egypt and Yemen, are among the features of the exhibition entitled, "Yemen — Early Sightings and Soundings."

Mohsin Alayni, Yemeni Ambassador to the United States, visited the exhibition in the lobby of Harvard's Widener Library on December 7.

"I am very pleased to come to see what they have here, because these are some of the things we are trying to collect," Ambassador Alayni said after viewing the exhibition. "As you know, most of the Yemeni treasures are divided and scattered everywhere."

"Now there are some beautiful pieces here and there, but they are not all in one place," the ambassador continued. "This is what we would like to do, gather them together."

He said plans were under way to hold exhibitions of Yemeni cul-

tural and historical treasures at museums in Europe and the United States, as well as in Yemen, in the years immediately ahead.

Dr. Carney Gavin, curator and director of Harvard's Semitic Museum, escorted Ambassador Alayni at Widener Library, describing the background of each item on display in the exhibit.

In addition to Bartholdi's photographs, the exhibit features other treasures, including 110-year-old negatives used to produce photographic panoramas of Aden, rare books and albums, maps, drawings, manuscripts, and the first recorded sounds from Yemen.

"This exhibition combines various rare collections from various parts of Harvard University along with collections shared with us from overseas institutions," Dr. Gavin said. "For the Harvard Semitic Museum this exhibition represents the very first stage in a multi-year programme of preparing to bring back to the Yemen the cultural documentation that we have been finding throughout the world."

He said the Bartholdi photographs were "in some ways the most surprising and exciting discoveries" of the programme to date. "We have been privileged to find and reproduce here for the first time the very earliest-known photographs of the Yemen. And these photographs turn out to have been made by a 22-year-old

French sculptor, who much later was to become famous for his great Statue of Liberty."

The photographs were inventoried, re-photographed and preserved as part of the King Fahd Archives' overseas work in 1984. It was during this period that it was discovered that Bartholdi was the first known photographer to take pictures in Yemen — at least photos that are still extant.

"Our discoveries have been part of the work of the King Fahd Archives," Dr. Gavin said. "In 1982 His Majesty King Fahd very graciously undertook to fund the worldwide cultural rescue project. His Majesty gave us an initial gift of \$600,000 for the first three years of this intensive project."

Dr. Gavin said the project is producing outstanding results. Modern scientific techniques result in reproductions of the rare old photographs that are of better quality than the originals, Dr. Gavin said. Then, by studying the reproduced photographs with special lenses, researchers can make new historical and cultural findings about Yemen.

"If we don't make these photographs (reproductions) now, they will vanish forever," he said, pointing out that the old photographs would actually disappear with time. "So, with the help of His Majesty King Fahd, we are trying to save these windows to the past before they close forever."

Dr. Gavin said the rep-

roductions make it possible for researchers to do some "photo archaeology," he explained.

"This is actually digging into the photographs physically for cultural clues such as the ways peoples have changed and the buildings that have vanished."

There is a long way to go in the research, however, he added. "To be totally frank, we are just at the beginning of our work," Gavin said. "And what we are about to go through in regard to the Yemen has been paralleled with regard to Iraq, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and Saudi Arabia. This is a project to locate and preserve documents that are important for the historical and cultural heritage of the entire Middle East."

He also pointed out that the "visual discoveries" — the early photographs — have "led us to the early sound," the earliest sound recordings of Yemeni music and poetry, around the year 1907.

In addition to the Bartholdi photographs, the inventory of "Yemen — Early Sightings and Soundings" includes:

- A manuscript atlas of the Red Sea;
- Early visual documents found in the 1870s in India;
- Photo-records discovered in Austrian naval archives;
- The earliest recordings of Yemeni songs and poems.

In the coming year, the 130-year-old photographs by Bartholdi will be exhibited July 4-14

at the Harvard Semitic Museum in a salute to the worldwide Festival of Liberty.

Late next year or early 1987, the Bartholdi photographs, along with other recently discovered clues to Yemen's history, will be in Yemen. The Harvard Semitic

Museum plans a presentation at The National Archaeological Museum at the University of Sanaa.

At that time, these treasures will be back in their historic homeland — U.S. Information Agency.

The Chi path to harmony and enlightenment

By Liselotte Petersohn

OVER four hundred guests attended the first European Chi congress organised by the Frankfurt Ring in Bad Soden (Hesse).

Under the motto "China's Wisdom — The World of Chi" the congress participants took a closer look at the elemental force of the Chi ("Qi" pinyin-style), which, many philosophers claim, pervades all areas of life.

According to this philosophy, man is a microcosm located between heaven and earth in the macrocosm of nature.

He is surrounded and saturated by the energetic forces of the Qi. Man's well-being and the harmony between man and nature depend on his ability to deal with life's vital forces.

The numerous lectures and work-shops at the congress together with an exhibition of Chinese pen-and-ink drawings underlined the multifariousness of this topic.

Science and art are equally embedded in the "world of the Qi", mutually permeating and stimulating each other.

Both are characterised by the inherent laws of dynamic change and the bipolarity of Yin and Yang, the two complementary principles of Chinese philosophy.

Yin is negative, dark and feminine, Yang positive, bright, and masculine.

Their interaction is thought to maintain the harmony of the universe and influence everything within it (from Chinese: yin, dark; yang, bright).

These contrasting principles are believed to be equally valid in physics, medicine, geology, architecture, urban development, painting and music.

Physicist Dr. Fritz-Albert Popp (Worms) elucidated the principle by outlining his research activities in the field of biophoton emissions (the inherent radiation of living tissue). He focussed on the origins of vitality and the source of bipolarity from the point of view of quantum biology.

Yin and Yang is not merely a philosophical concept, but is continually being corroborated by modern research into biological systems.

Each cell bears within it the potentiality of opposing properties, this power being a prerequisite for its vitality.

The acceptance of this dynamic realisation in physics, biology and medicine, however, requires tolerance, an attribute more characteristic of the oriental way of thinking and acting.

Tolerance is also essential if traditional Chinese medicine is to be generally acknowledged as an

independent and self-contained therapeutic system able to ideally complement Western medicine.

A lecture on "The Qi in Chinese medicine" (by the author of this article) provided a rundown of the theoretical foundations of Yin and Yang, the determinant laws of the phases of change, the organic functional cycles, and energetics.

Qi is the key feature of the very specific forms of Chinese diagnosis and the numerous types of therapy based upon it.

The existence of the Qi, however, is not (yet) detectable via Western methods of detection or has only been established in certain fields.

The inherent power of Qi can be activated and influenced by Chinese drugs, acupuncture, moxa treatment (a special form of heat treatment), massage, special diets, and, above all, meditative respiratory and kinetic exercises

and Chinese massage (Andreas Heyden, Erwin Kirchschlager, Rolf Weber) also provided an opportunity to find out more about these forms of medical treatment.

Master Mantak Chia (New York) pointed towards a different path to inner harmony.

Ever since his youth he had practised Daoist and Buddhist teachings and referred to the Chi as a universal principle.

According to these teachings, the original harmony of the flow of energy in the mother's womb is disrupted shortly after birth, and there is a risk that this energy will be lost altogether.

The goal of all Daoist exercises is to reestablish the original state, to regulate the circulation, and to refine and retain the energy.

A lecture given by Dr. Stephen Skinner (London) broached the aspect of Feng Shui, the power of

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black leaders, the district attorney (prosecutor) of New York, Robert Morgenthau, reopened the case and presented it to a second grand jury which indicted Goetz on attempted murder charges.

Goetz has still not gone to trial. Whether he will, remains an open question. A judge is considering motions to dismiss the case. He is to decide in the new year.

"Bernie Goetz" T-shirts are no longer hot sellers, but there is a Christmas "subway vigilante" board game to play at home which has a map of New York's underground system. The winner is the player who can get to the Bronx, one of New York's five boroughs, alive.

C. Vernon Mason, who represents Darryl Cabey, says, "I'm not optimistic at all that he will ever be convicted of attempted murder against Darryl Cabey or anyone else, except the charge for carrying an unlicensed gun."

Mason admits people who ride the subway are frightened.

"The real question that we have to address is what do we as a society do about it?" he said. "Do we focus our anger by picking up a gun and shooting people, or do we try to resolve some of those problems to reduce crime?"

Goetz told the New York Daily News this month: "The system doesn't work. It hasn't worked. The whole system, the world, is screwed up and doesn't know what direction to take."

But Goetz still rides the subway, and like those people he claims have avoided justice through incessant court delays, he too waits for his case to come up.

Darryl Cabey is expected to leave hospital in two months. Mrs. Cabey recently said she wanted Goetz to go on trial. "I think we should be punished because my son is being punished... He will never be able to walk again."

Meanwhile, crime on the New York subway is down by about nine per cent from the previous year. But officials say it has nothing to do with Goetz. The trend began four months before the shootings and was helped by assigning 228 more police to subway trains, they say.

Scientists find possible key to malaria cure

By Stanley Parker

Reuter

BONN — The malaria parasite, a master of escapology and the cause of untold misery in many Third World countries, may be losing one of the secrets of its survival.

The parasite, transmitted to humans by several species of mosquito, has emerged tougher than ever from every onslaught devised by science for its extinction.

According to World Health Organisation (WHO) estimates, 95 million people were ill with malaria in 1983, 76 million in sub-Saharan Africa alone. Another 120 million were carriers.

Pesticides and medicines have achieved almost miraculous early results. But each time the parasite — *plasmodium falciparum* — has beaten the count and come out fighting.

Now a team at West Germany's Max Planck Institute for Biochemistry led by Hans-Georg Heidrich has found what may be an Achilles heel on the micro-organism — one of its methods of eluding the body's hunter-killer cells and detection mechanism.

Although consisting only of a single cell, *plasmodium falciparum* is well equipped for survival. For a start, nature has provided two hosts to help it complete its life cycle, the mosquito and man.

The parasites live in the gut and stomach linings of the mosquito, where sexual union occurs. The

asexual progeny then move into the insect's salivary glands and enter humans when the mosquito bites a victim.

In a short time the invaders find their way into the human liver where they mature within six to nine days, in the course of which each produces a large number of merozoites, as the new generation is called.

These move into the bloodstream where each one takes over a red blood cell and takes on the form of a ring which enlarges to the capacity of the cell. The cells then burst and release many more merozoites which attack other red cells, form rings, and the cycle is repeated at 48-hour intervals.

In an effort to defeat the disease, the WHO and many affected countries mounted a joint campaign in the early 1960s, using the pesticide DDT and the medicine Chloroquine.

Initial results were impressive. In India alone malaria cases in 1962 had fallen from the millions to 100,000.

But in 1976 the count was up to four million — the host insects had become resistant to DDT.

The parasites also displayed their survival capacity by becoming immune to Chloroquine. More recently, strains resistant to the new medicine Fansidar have evolved in Thailand.

The parasite's skill in coping with medicines and its complicated life cycle are not the only problems researchers face. It has some subtle tricks that it has dev-

eloped to fool its arch foe, the human immune system.

One such trick has momentarily thwarted scientists in their search for an effective vaccine against malaria.

They discovered repetitive amino-acid sequences on the protein envelopes surrounding the parasite after its initial entry into the body. They theorised that a vaccine developed from these could call forth antibodies from the immune system to neutralise them.

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After more painstaking work a vaccine was created and gave rise to specific antibodies in laboratory animals. The drawback was that they had no effect on the onset of malaria.

The dismayed researchers concluded that the amino-acid sequences were part of the plasmodium's defences, fooling the immune system into producing antibodies harmless to the invader until it found safety in the liver.

The discovery has given rise to fears that teams searching for similar antibody stimulants on merozoites, the red cell penetrants, may be led astray in similar fashion.

The Max Planck team under Heidrich, however, has taken a different path and concentrated on the infected blood cells.

Blood cells containing parasites escape destruction by binding to the walls of certain smaller blood vessels, especially in the brain, where their blocking action often causes death.

Heidrich, addressing students recently on his team's work, said they appeared to have found the binding factor in the form of proteins secreted onto the surface of infected cells.

The proteins appear immediately before the wandering cells anchor themselves to the walls of central capillaries, leaving the immune system with hardly any time to react.

Heidrich said his team planned to develop a vaccine from the proteins. This would hopefully induce the production of specific antibodies and have them in place in the blood at the moment the proteins appeared.

Success would mean the antibodies sealing off the adhesive factor on the cells, which would eventually be eliminated by the immune system.

He warned, however, that years could pass before a vaccine was perfected and then manufactured in a form suitable for human use.

Al Hajri quits M.E. rallies

AMMAN (J.T.) — Rally star Saeed Al Hajri will not defend the Middle East championship which he won earlier this month. Instead, he will spend 1986 competing in selected world and European championship events, according to a spokesman for the Rothmans rally team.

But the Arab World's number one rally driver is eager to point out that he is not turning his back on the Middle East scene, which he has dominated for the past three years. While he will not take part in the championship, he may make a guest appearance in the occasional single event.

"I would like to drive again in the region, but right now there is nothing left for me to win," Al Hajri was quoted as saying by the Rothmans spokesman. "I hope it doesn't sound big-headed, but I really need world standard competition if I am to make progress myself."

"Middle East rallying is getting bigger and better and when the Finns, the French and the Italians start coming down here, as they

must do eventually, then I will return," he said.

Al Hajri, Middle East champion since the series was founded and a major winner 11 times over, added: "It is also not fair to the other drivers to have one man winning most of the rallies. Without me around, several of them should now have the opportunity to win."

Al Hajri's departure will come as a shock and a disappointment to many of his supporters who have cheered him to victory in every regional competition since 1982. He won the 1982 and 1983 Gulf rally challenges, the 1983 Middle East challenge and the all-important FISA Middle East championships of 1984 and 1985, a phenomenal 100 per cent record.

His 1986 programme will consist of a number of selected events in the world and European championships. The Rothmans spokesman said: "This next year will basically be a holding operation for Saeed. Although he has driven brilliantly in the Porsche, it is a 20-year-old design and it is severely limited in power against the Lancia, Audi and Peugeot supercars, not to speak of the new Metro."

"It will be the following year before we can expect Saeed to have a serious crack at one of the big titles. But in 1986, he will gain a lot more experience in the kind of events where his future undoubtedly lies — and who knows, he might win a couple," the spokesman added.

The 28-year-old Qatari has already proved that he's got what it takes. He and co-driver John Spiller finished a remarkable fifth out of 120 competitors in the world championship Acropolis Rally this year behind winner Timo Salonen. And he beat drivers 20 dif-



Saeed Al Hajri

ferent countries to win the ten-day Rothmans Pharoah Rally.

Al Hajri is expected to open his season with the European championship Circuit of Ireland, an ultra-fast, all-tarmac rally that is renowned as a supreme test of skill.

Chelsea, Everton head chase of United

LONDON (R) — The four-month pursuit of English First Division leaders Manchester United took on a new dimension Saturday as Chelsea and reigning champions Everton moved up to head the chasing pack.

Midfielder Nigel Spackman emerged Chelsea's unlikely hero as they beat Tottenham 2-0 to record their first win over their London rivals at home since October 1974.

The result was enough for Chelsea to leapfrog from fourth to second place in the table as Liverpool, who have led the chase of United since the early weeks of the season, slipped to fourth following their 1-1 draw at Nottingham Forest.

Everton eased into third place as England striker Gary Lineker scored twice in a 3-1 home win over Sheffield Wednesday.

Manchester United's game at Newcastle was one of 24 postponed in England and Scotland due to bad weather.

Player-manager Kenny Dalglish recalled himself in a bid to inject a little life into Liverpool's dogged pursuit of the leaders. But the Scottish striker failed to collect anything other than a first half booking as a first half Liverpool were outclassed by their hosts.

Gifted midfielder Neil Webb shot Forest ahead after only 10 minutes following good work by striker Nigel Clough, son of manager Brian.

Liverpool struggled to find a reply but equalised nine minutes after the break through Kevin Macdonald. Then goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar earned his side a point when he dived to his right to push away Peter Davenport's 66th minute penalty.

Chelsea's win eased them onto 47 points, two ahead of United. Everton are level on 46 points with Liverpool but are third by virtue of having scored more goals.

West Ham, another side who did not play Saturday, fell to fifth.

Spackman's pinpoint cross enabled Kerry Dixon to head home his 21st goal of the season after 18 minutes to put Chelsea on the path to victory.

Tottenham, forced to replace fullback Danny Thomas with Argentine international Ossie Ardiles after 30 minutes, squandered a couple of respectable chances before halftime.

But Spackman's 63rd minute penalty put the result beyond doubt and avenged his side's 4-1 drubbing at Tottenham's White Hart Lane home last September.

Lineker took his tally for the season to 21 with goals in the 25th and 86th minutes of Everton's impressive display.

Earlier Gary Stevens had shot the champions, who beat United 3-1 on Thursday, 1-0 up before putting through his own goal six minutes after the interval to present Wednesday with a consolation effort.

Seventh-placed Arsenal continued their excellent recent form with a 3-1 win over fellow-Londoners Queen's Park Rangers.

Former England midfielder Graham Rix put them ahead after 12 minutes with a delightful 18-metre shot. But Arsenal, who had recent wins over Manchester United and Liverpool, could not make further headway until midway through the second half when Scotland's Charlie Nicholas got his third goal in three games.

Gary Bannister cut back the deficit three minutes later when he hit Rangers' first goal in five matches but England striker Tony Woodcock completed Arsenal's tally six minutes from time.

Luton held on to eighth place with a battling 1-1 draw at struggling Ipswich, Nigel Gleghorn shooting the hosts ahead after 10 minutes before defender Mark

North equalised eight minutes from the final whistle.

Two goals from Colin West, the last in the dying second, earned Watford three points from their clash with Leicester.

Alan Smith shot the visitors in front after 15 minutes but West equalised in the 65th and then snatched Watford's 2-1 victory with a last-gasp winner.

Hearts go into the new year as leaders of the Scottish Premier Division following their 2-0 win at Rangers Saturday.

Former Celtic star John Colquhoun scored twice in the first half as Hearts extended their unbeaten string to 13 games to move on to 36 points, two clear of Dundee United who were held to a goalless draw by neighbours Dundee.

Champions Aberdeen are third on 23.

It was a magnificent result for Hearts fullback and assistant manager Sandy Jardine, 37, on Tuesday, who spent most of his playing career at Rangers.

Hearts were more adventurous on an icy surface although Rangers almost hit the target in the closing stages. But Ally Dawson's raking drive was superbly saved by Henry Smith.

The defeat was a severe blow to Rangers' hopes of pressing home a championship challenge. They trail the leaders by five points and will be hard pressed to stop Glasgow rivals Celtic next weekend.

A goal in each half from Alan Johnston and Paul Hogg steered fourth-placed Celtic to a 2-0 win over Clydebank.

Malaysia, Iran win in Asian basketball tourney

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Malaysia easily defeated Sri Lanka 140-53 while Iran struggled to beat India 86-78 on the first day of the 13th Asian Basketball Championships Saturday.

The Malaysians were in command throughout and led 67-21 at half time without raising a sweat against the shorter Sri Lankans.

In the second half the home team, backed by a vociferous partisan crowd, continued to dominate and increased their lead. Tan

Kin Chin led them with 38 points.

The lead changed hands after the break, but the Indians began to lose concentration after missing a basket when they levelled at 44-44 and the sharper Iranians began to pull away.

China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Jordan, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, South Korea and Thailand are other countries taking part in the seven-day tournament.

Canter advances to finals in Victorian Open tennis

MELBOURNE (R) — Jonathan Canter of the United States, the youngest player to earn an ATP ranking, reached his first Grand Prix singles final when he beat former Australian Open champion Mark Edmondson 7-6 (7-5) 7-6 (7-2) in the semifinals of the \$75,000 Victorian Open tennis tournament Saturday.

Canter, 20, from California, will meet Australian Peter Doochan in Sunday's final. Doochan cruised through to his second successive final with a 6-4, 6-3 win over fellow-Australian Mark Kratzman.

Canter, who earned his first ATP point when he reached the final 18 of a satellite circuit in Louisiana when he was 14, was below his best Saturday and needed the assistance of several unforced errors from Edmondson to see him through.

Edmondson was unable to clinch his break chances in the opening set but saved a match point in the 12th game of the final set and held serve to level at 6-6 before being beaten 7-2 in the deciding tiebreaker.

Doochan, a finalist in last Sunday's South Australian Open, ended a great run by former Wimbledon junior champion Kratzman who had reached his first Grand Prix semifinal. He has won three of his four previous meetings with Canter.

Apollo romps for home with big lead

SYDNEY (R) — The Australian yacht Apollo held a lead of nearly 20 miles over her closest rivals Saturday as it stormed towards the northeastern tip of Tasmania in the 1985 Sydney-Hobart race.

Warwick Rooklyn's giant green-hulled Maxi, revelling in the heavy conditions, left two other Australian contenders, Syd Fischer's Ragamuffin and Rod Muir's Windward Passage which

were locked in battle for second place.

Race officials said Ragamuffin and Windward Passage had narrowed the gap on the leader but, with less than 200 miles to go, they were running out of time.

Apollo made history for the closest finish in any Sydney-Hobart race when in 1983 it lost to Concor by a mere seven seconds.

In hot pursuit of the big boats

were Victorian-owned Spirit of Queensland and Sydney's Bewitched.

Bewitched was in fifth place when it reported a crewman was suffering from a Jucenal ulcer. But Dr. Lynn Anderson, on board the race's radio relay ship Wynna, said the crewman's condition had stabilised and there was no reason to evacuate him.

The first Southern Cross Cup boat, Australia's Drake's Prayer, moved up a place during the day to sixth on line and second on Handicap Honours, ahead of Freight Train from Western Australia.

Sydney sloop and leader on corrected time, Sagacious, was eight, ahead of New Zealand's Starlight Express and Thunderbird and Britain's Highland Fling.

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Answer. What peroxide might do—TURN HER HEAD.

Kremlin assails U.S. arms policy

Soviet marshal restates hostility to SDI

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Soviet Deputy Defence Minister Marshal Vasily Petrov accused the United States Saturday of simultaneously developing anti-missile defences and ways for its own weapons to outwit such defence.

In a scathing attack on U.S. arms policy, Marshal Petrov, one of three first deputy defence ministers, said it was based on an offensive nuclear strategy.

The attack, published in the Communist Party daily Pravda, restated Kremlin hostility to President Reagan's "Star Wars" Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI) and said nuclear arms cuts would be impossible if it went ahead.

U.S. arguments that SDI would make nuclear weapons obsolete were just a disguise for its "aggressive, offensive plans."

"There is one more incontrovertible factor... the Pentagon is working intensively on ways to get round anti-ballistic missile (ABM) defences," he said.

"One asks: Why create ways for getting round ABM defences if SDI will make nuclear weapons obsolete? It is obvious this is done not for defence but for nuclear attack."

Marshal Petrov cited U.S. press reports of Pentagon research into low-flying ballistic missiles and fast cruise missiles travelling too low to be hit by lasers based in space, dummy and manoeuvring warheads and ways of shortening the vulnerable boost phase of ballistic missiles.

"The Pentagon tries to keep all this work secret but you can't hide a needle in a sack (the truth will out)," he said.

Marshal Petrov referred to the halt to nuclear testing declared unilaterally by Moscow and which expires on Dec. 31. Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has offered to extend the moratorium if Washington joins it and the state media here have increasingly campaigned on the issue in recent days.

Marshal Petrov said a joint moratorium would be a practical step towards nuclear disarmament and it could only cause concern that the United States had declined the offer.

However, he reserved his main fire for SDI which he said was "part of the general military plan of the United States, based on an offensive nuclear strategy."

Meanwhile Mr. Gorbachev on Friday hosted foreign diplomats at a Kremlin holiday reception, where he repeated his call for U.S. agreement to a ban on nuclear tests so people will "stop disfiguring their own planet."

Mr. Gorbachev's address, carried by the Soviet News Agency TASS, echoed the steady stream of media commentaries over the

past few weeks demanding that the United States join the Soviet Union in halting nuclear tests in 1986.

The Communist Party chief instituted a unilateral ban on nuclear tests on Aug. 6, in commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima, Japan. He has said that the moratorium could be extended beyond the end of this year if the United States joins it.

"The question of nuclear explosions is now in the focus of attention of statesmen and the broad public," Mr. Gorbachev told the heads of foreign missions in Moscow.

"These explosions have rocked the earth for several decades now. It is time to put an end to that. We are convinced that this is within the limits of the possible."

Mr. Gorbachev told the diplomats, invited for a noon celebration of the forthcoming New Year holiday, that "we have urged and continue urging the USA to follow the Soviet Union's good example and end all nuclear explosions."

"Let us act so that the year of 1986 should go down into history as that of a decline in nuclear explosions, as the year when people have mustered up enough common sense to rise above narrow, selfish motives and stop disfiguring their own planet."

U.S. Ambassador Arthur Hartman is out of Moscow for the holidays, so Charge d'Affaires Ric-

hard Combs attended the Kremlin gathering in his place. U.S. embassy spokesman Jaroslav Verner said Mr. Combs had no immediate comment on Mr. Gorbachev's address.

Kremlin leaders and the state-run media have intensified their campaign for a superpower ban on nuclear testing as the Jan. 1 expiration date for the Soviet moratorium approaches.

The Communist Party daily Pravda on Friday declared that "it depends only on the United States now whether there is going to be a mutual moratorium, whether the way is paved to a ban on all testing."

Under the headline "It's not yet too late," the youth newspaper Komsomolskaya Pravda said nearly 7 million Soviet citizens had sent postcards asking the United States to halt its nuclear testing in the interests of world peace.

TASS also contributed another commentary, describing the U.S. decision on participating in the test ban as "a kind of litmus paper, which enables one to precisely judge about a real stand of that or other government on a whole package of questions of limitation and reduction of armaments."

U.S. officials have thus far declined to match the Soviet declaration against nuclear testing, citing problems with verification of compliance with such a test ban and also U.S. intentions to complete certain tests already scheduled.

Nakasone reshuffles cabinet

TOKYO (R) — Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone reshuffled his cabinet, but kept Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe and Finance Minister Noboru Takeshita to grapple with a faltering economy and the forthcoming Tokyo summit.

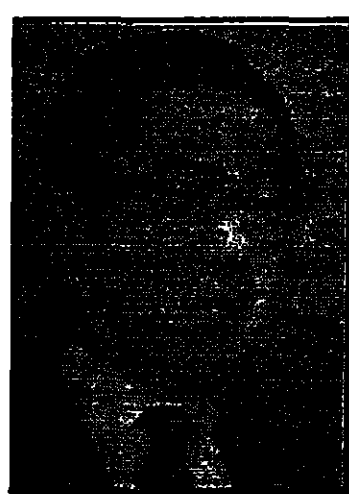
Newly-named chief Cabinet Secretary Masaharu Gotoda told journalists there were 17 changes, with the trade and industry portfolio going to Michio Watanabe, a popular personality in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party. He replaced Keijiro Murata.

Political sources said Mr. Nakasone asked Mr. Abe and Mr. Takeshita, both 61, to continue in their posts to ensure planning for the May 1986 Tokyo summit proceeded smoothly in experienced hands.

The two ministers were at the last three seven-nation summits. Both are tipped as potential successors to Mr. Nakasone, whose second two-year term ends next November.

Koichi Kato kept his job as defence minister but a new man took over at the Home Affairs Ministry, Ichiro Ozawa, at 43 the youngest in the new cabinet line-up.

Mr. Gotoda said the reshuffle reflected Mr. Nakasone's commitment to solve trade squabbles with Western trading partners, reform education and privatise the state railway system.



Shintaro Abe

Mr. Gotoda said the new cabinet would continue present policies, adding: "It will aim for stability — it will handle important reforms."

The new list was announced after a flurry of activity at Mr. Nakasone's office as outgoing ministers put the final touches to the budget for the financial year beginning next April.

The Finance Ministry said Japan faced a belt-tightening year as the government had to repay huge amounts of debt incurred 10 years ago. The money was used to spend Japan's way out of recessions caused by higher oil prices in the 1970s.

Total spending will rise only



Yasuhiro Nakasone

three per cent next year to 54,088 billion yen (\$270 billion).

Virtually all ministries will have less money next year, although Mr. Kato's Defence Ministry will have more to beef up the armed forces in the face of Soviet military activity on the fringes of Japan.

Defence spending will rise 6.58 per cent to 3,343 billion yen (\$16.7 billion) to pay for 12 new F-15 fighters, 10 anti-submarine surveillance aircraft, three new destroyers and more anti-aircraft missiles.

International aid will also increase against the trend, by seven per cent to 621 billion yen (\$3.10 billion).

COLUMN

UAE alert for forged bank notes

ABU DHABI (R) — The UAE Central Bank has warned banks and money dealers to be alert for forged high value banknotes, bankers said Saturday. They said there had been reports that computers and other high technology equipment were being used to counterfeit 500-dirham and other high denomination notes. The bankers could not say if any fake notes had been confiscated.

Man fined for breaking car window

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — A man was fined for smashing the window of a car when he became angry over a fortune message he selected at a temple, the United Daily News reported Wednesday. The newspaper said the fortune message selected by Chou Kuen-Hui, predicted bad luck and he attacked the parked car as he left the temple. Printed fortune messages are available at most Chinese temples for worshippers. The man was fined 6,000 Taiwan dollars (\$150), the newspaper said. Officials of the Taipei district court were not available to elaborate on the newspaper's report.

Woman dies after 29 years in coma

CARACAS (R) — A Venezuelan woman who fell into a coma 29 years ago due to a medical error while she was having her tonsils removed in hospital has died of a lung infection. Carmen Mercedes Nunez suffered irreversible brain damage in 1956 when an anaesthetist mistakenly connected her breathing tube to a carbon dioxide cylinder during the tonsillectomy. Nunez, 56, died on Saturday, a spokesman for Vargas Hospital in Caracas said. Her mother, who had sat by her bedside since the accident, has asked undertakers to clothe her daughter for her funeral in the wedding dress she never wore. She had been engaged to marry a U.S. pilot in December 1956, two months after the operation.

Inventor claims car runs on water

MANILA (R) — A Filipino engineer Saturday unveiled the "dinglemobile," a modified Japanese car with a secret gadget he claimed made it run on water — or virtually any other liquid except petrol. Daniel Dingle, 52, said his car would run on beer, coffee, tea, sea water or even urine with but a "few drops of petrol" just to get it started. He told reporters it took him three years to perfect his gadget which appeared to consist of a number of tubes laid over a magnet connecting a tank of water to the carburettor. Dingle said the cost of converting an ordinary car to run on water was about \$250 and involved modifying only the piston rings besides installing the mysterious device. He said the dinglemobile got 50 kilometres per litre of water. Reporters who test drove the car said it performed "just as well if not better than an ordinary car." But they were not given the opportunity to examine closely the car's innards. Dingle indignantly denied his device was a fake, asserting "how can I offer this to car manufacturers if it's a fraud? They'll find me out in one second."

Bargain hunter let down after long wait

LONDON (AP) — Kevin Mellish claimed a world record Friday for the longest wait for a sale after camping outside a London department store for 18 days and one hour. Mellish, 37, an unemployed former supermarket porter, maintained an around-the-clock vigil outside Selfridges in Oxford Street since Dec. 9 to raise money for charity. Bundled in a heavy coat, he endured high winds and pelting rain that swept away his bivouac of plastic sheeting. He said his radio, telephone, thermos bottle and gloves were stolen during the wait. Once inside the store, Mellish complained that he was given a cool reception. He told reporters he had hoped to buy a television, video recorder and video camera with 500 pounds (\$715) of his own money and the 2,000 pounds (\$2,860) he raised for the Rainer Foundation, a charity that helps underprivileged youths. Mellish said he got a 1,000-pound (\$1,430) reduction on the goods, but only after he complained to the store management. "I thought after all the publicity I got for Selfridges I would get it (the electronic equipment) for next to nothing," he said.

Zimbabwean, Mozambican troops capture rebel base

HARARE (Agencies) — A joint force of Zimbabwean and Mozambican troops captured a rebel base west of the Mozambique port of Beira after a two-day battle this week, an army spokesman said in Harare Saturday.

The spokesman said the troops attacked the base, called Kachadze, on Christmas Eve and seized control on Thursday.

Large quantities of arms and ammunition were seized and 52 Mozambican National Resistance (MNR) rebels were killed.

It was the second large rebel base to be captured in central Mozambique since Zimbabwean troops began offensive operations inside Mozambique earlier this year.

In August, the MNR headquarters at Gorongosa north west of Beira fell. Documents cap-

tured at the time showed South Africa had continued to supply the rebels well after signing a non-aggression treaty with Maputo in March last year.

Zimbabwe had about 3,500 troops in Mozambique guarding strategic installations, such as an oil pipeline and rail links, for the past three years. Military sources said this force had been increased to between 10,000 and 12,000 for this year's offensive.

The guerrillas are fighting to topple Mozambique President Samora Machel's Marxist government.

The camp, located between the Pungwe and Buzi rivers, harboured some 600 rebels and civilian supporters.

A Zimbabwe army spokesman did not say what had happened to survivors.

American gorilla expert murdered in Rwanda

KIGALI (R) — American naturalist Dian Fossey, a world authority on gorillas, has been murdered in a Rwanda game preserve, police reported Saturday.

Her body was found on Thursday morning at the Karisoke Research Institute she founded. She was 33 and had studied the forest apes in the heart of Africa for 18 years.

A police statement said that investigations so far had discovered only that the murder took place on the night of Wednesday-Thursday and that the killers seemed to know the area well.

No arrests have been made, police said.

Fossey studied the endangered mountain gorillas of the Virunga Range, which soars to 4,507 metres north east of Lake Kivu, near the point where Rwanda's nor-

thern border meets Zaire and Uganda.

Her book Gorillas in the Mist was published in 1983.

Only about 240 of the great apes are believed to survive.

The gorillas are hunted by poachers who sell their heads and hands as souvenirs, and are also under strong pressure as a result of soaring population growth in tiny Rwanda.

There are on average nearly 200 people per square kilometre in this landlocked former Belgian territory and the population is growing at a rate of 3.4 per cent annually, among the highest in the world.

This growth is a serious threat to the shy gorillas, found only in Rwanda and possibly in small numbers in neighbouring Zaire and Uganda.

Gandhi opens Congress Party's centenary session

BOMBAY, India (R) — Six people were injured Saturday when police baton-charged thousands of delegates trying to enter a stadium to hear Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi open the 100th anniversary session of India's ruling Congress Party.

Security collapsed as a huge crowd, which included members of parliament and the head of Mr. Gandhi's reception committee, surged into Bombay's Brabourne Cricket Stadium. Police charged twice with steel-tipped bamboo staves.

Mr. Gandhi, apparently unaware of the commotion, opened the centenary session with an appeal for an end to communal and religious strife.

He told 100,000 delegates the Congress Party should build a powerful, non-aligned India "transcending barriers of caste, creed and region."

Battling faulty microphones, Mr. Gandhi delivered his 30-page speech alternately in Hindi and English to cabinet ministers, veteran politicians and 300 foreign delegates from 65 countries.

The stadium was covered by a huge cloth canopy supported by steel girders decked in the Congress colours of saffron, white and green.

Mr. Gandhi opened the three-day celebrations in the field where Mahatma Gandhi, modern India's founding father, launched his "Quit India" movement against British rule in 1942.

Rajiv, son of murdered Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, is no relation to the Mahatma.

The 41-year-old leader, whose Congress (I) Party has lost state elections this year in Punjab and Assam, called for national unity and condemned "people imprisoned by the narrow walls of religion, language, caste and region."

In an indirect reference to Sikh extremists fighting for autonomy in north west Punjab state, Mr. Gandhi warned Indians "to be on their guard against divisive regional forces."



Rajiv Gandhi

His address was the highlight of celebrations commemorating the 72 men, including Britain's Alan Octavian Hume, who met in Bombay in 1885 to found the Indian National Congress, forerunner of the Congress (I) Party.

Despite splits in 1969 and 1978, the party has ruled India for 35 years since independence in 1947. It was renamed Congress (I) — the I stands for Indira — by Indira Gandhi who led it until her assassination in October 1984.

Meanwhile, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported that separatist guerrillas in Mizoram are close to a peace accord with Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

Tawnluia, leader of the outlawed Mizo National Army, said Friday that talks to end a 20-year-old revolt in the territory bordering Burma and Bangladesh were in the final stage, the news agency said.

Tawnluia, whose group is the military wing of the banned Mizo National Front (MNF), told a press conference in the territory's main town Aizawl the guerrillas hoped to finalise a pact with Mr. Gandhi on Jan. 11.

New Delhi announced a ceasefire with MNF leader Laldenga a year ago but peace talks foundered over rehabilitation for surrendered guerrillas and full statehood for Mizoram.

Mexican museum theft sparks probe of security measures

MEXICO CITY (Agencies) — The Christmas Day theft of priceless antiques from Mexico City's anthropology museum has triggered a major probe into a security system that did not have a single electronic alarm.

Police said the only regular security was provided by patrols every two hours to check the vast collection of Mayan and Aztec relics in the museum, a sprawling group of modern buildings on the elegant Paseo de la Reforma.

The theft of 140 pre-Columbian treasures was discovered on Christmas morning and police sources said several hours passed before the alarm was raised at the international airport and checks of outgoing luggage were tightened.

President Miguel de la Madrid has ordered an investigation into the theft, one of the biggest in art history, and four national police organisations joined forces in the probe.

According to the local press, the thieves gained entry by breaking an iron grille and got into the exhibition halls through a door with a faulty lock.

Museum officials said there was not a single electronic alarm in the

museum and display cases were locked with metal belts fastened by screws and nuts.

Built in 1964, the museum attracts five million people a year to what is widely considered the most complete collection of pre-Columbian art in the world.

Enrique Florescano, director of the National Anthropology Institute, told a news conference the security system had worked well for 20 years.

Officials said none of the relics had been insured, chiefly because it was difficult to price irreplaceable items.

Museum curator Felipe Solis said an Aztec Obsidian vase in the shape of a monkey was worth 10 billion pesos (\$20 million) but this could not be independently confirmed.

The stolen relics also included figurines, masks, gold jewellery and vases, all from the Maya, Mixteca, Mexico and Zapoteca exhibition halls of the museum.

Police said they believed the robbery had been planned for months by professionals with expert advice on pre-Columbian art. They ignored a display of reproductions of figurines from the

Olmeque period but looted a nearby case with authentic items.

Officials said most of the stolen pieces measured only a few centimetres and could fit into a medium-size case.

Art experts said the stolen pieces were probably bound for collections abroad.

The Mexican branch of Interpol, the International Police Organisation, has sent cables to police around the world urging cooperation in recovering the artefacts.

Mexicans, immensely proud of their ancient Indian cultures, reacted indignantly to the theft of the priceless artefacts.

"Whoever ordered the robbery of the anthropology museum robbed from us all," read a headline in the cultural section of El Universal newspaper. The government newspaper El Nacional ran a banner headline saying: "Here there was an error by the Mexican authorities in not having stricter control."

The theft of the centuries-old gold, jade and stone relics from

Mexico's Maya, Aztec and other Indian civilisations was discovered Christmas morning during a change of security shifts.

Because of the holiday and a delay in announcing the crime, the full impact did not hit local newspapers until Friday. Many carried multiple pages on developments or interviews with archaeologists and other cultural figures.

"Infuriating robbery," was the title of an editorial in El Universal. "Archaeological robbery, a lacinating form of reducing our historical memory, is an old acquaintance of Mexicans."

"It's not only the material value," Anthropologist Paul Gendrop told the business daily El Financiero. "It's the work of many years by Mexican anthropologists who dedicated themselves with love and devotion to rescuing, studying and conserving the pieces."

Excelsior newspaper quoted a top police official as saying investigators were "baffled" at the ease with which the thieves worked and that indicated it might have been an inside job.

Col. Rafael Rocha Cordero, deputy director of the Federal

Judiciary Police, was quoted as saying that in less than three hours, "between two and four" thieves selectively plundered seven showcases in three exhibition rooms.

"They knew perfectly well how the place functioned. They had enough time to go through half the museum, which places suspicion on the guards, who were obliged to do the rounds every two hours," the newspaper quoted Rocha Cordero as saying.

Eight guards on duty at the museum during the Christmas Eve theft were questioned but not charged. The attorney general's office said Thursday that they were not considered suspects.

Excelsior quoted Rocha Cordero as saying the thieves scaled a seven-foot steel fence to enter the museum grounds, then crawled through a broken air-conditioning tunnel to the basement.

They then went through the first and second floor showrooms, arranged in a U-shape around a large central patio, he was quoted as saying.

No locks were picked, no glass was broken, and no door was forced open, officials said.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHEAR © 1985 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

REMOVE THE GUESS

East-West vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
 ♠ A 10 4
 ♥ A 3 2
 ♦ Q 6 4
 ♣ K 10 6 2

EAST
 ♠ 10 9 8
 ♥ K J 8 5 3
 ♦ Q J 7 5 4
 ♣ K 10 9 6

SOUTH
 ♠ 7 2
 ♥ 8
 ♦ A K J 10 7
 ♣ K 7 5 4 3

The bidding:
 South West North East
 1 ♠ Pass 2 NT Pass
 3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
 5 ♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♠.

Sometimes you don't mind losing a trick as long as you can concede it to the safe hand. The successful declarer on this hand from a recent team match removed all the guess-work.

Both tables did well to shun three no trump in favor of a minor-suit game contract. After a heart lead, declarer can come to no more than eight tricks unless he gets some help from the defense. At both tables North steered clear of no trump because he had only one

heart stopper and fits for both of South's minor suits.

Against five clubs, the lead at both tables was the queen of hearts, and both declarers won the ace. The unsuccessful declarer led a trump to his king. West took the ace and shifted to a spade. Declarer tried the finesse, West won the king and reverted to a heart.

Declarer ruffed and had to guess the club situation. He chose to lead a trump to the queen—down one.

The declarer at the other table exercised more care. He too won the ace of hearts, but then he came to hand with a heart ruff to lead a trump to dummy's ten. When that held, it was all over but the shouting. Declarer forced out the ace of trumps and ended up with an over-trick when he later discarded the table's two losing spades on his own long diamonds. It was then a simple matter to ruff a spade on the board.

The beauty of declarer's plan is that his contract was secure even if East turned up with the jack of clubs. East could not attack spades without presenting declarer with the contract. South could win any return, force out the ace of trumps and, after drawing the last trump, discard dummy's losing spades on the long diamonds. At worst, he would not make an over-trick.

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